

diversity of taste among Christian worshippers, relative to hymns, that it is not expected this collection, nor any other which could be made, would suit every one. We have only to say, that in our humble judgment, this collection, according to its size, is more free from the above defects, than any with which we are acquainted.

For convenience, we have divided our book into two parts. Part I. contains a selection from the Psalms and Hymns of Dr. Watts. We have abridged several of them, and have also taken the liberty to erase unscriptural expressions where they occurred, and substitute scriptural ones in their room. Part II. contains Hymns and Scriptural Songs by different authors; a few of which have never appeared in any hymn-book before. We prefer this arrangement to that of classing hymns under different heads, or subjects. This manner of compiling a hymn-book is attended with one difficulty, at least, while at the same time it can present but little advantage. In order to make out a variety on a number of subjects, some hymns are always inserted, which, perhaps are never used in our congregations, while others, superior in merit, are omitted. Instead of classing the hymns, we have given directions over our table of first lines, how hymns on several different subjects may be readily found. (See the Index.)

We would state that the first and second parts of this book were compiled by Elders J. BADGER