

Preface.

VOLUME FOR THE CHURCH;—and it will be seen that those only are omitted, which, on account of their subject, or style, or metre, are unsuitable for congregational singing. But some of these are so admirably adapted to devotional purposes in the parlour and the closet, that if those who possess that volume will use it in their social circles and private retirement, they may derive from it more pleasure and spiritual improvement, than if their books remained in the sanctuary, where not a few of these valuable pieces would have continued useless and unnoticed.

Although this volume will be found to contain a larger number of hymns of praise, and on a greater variety of subjects than any book of Church Psalmody, it may still be regretted by some that other sources were not more freely resorted to, and a yet greater variety secured. But it was found that to extend the selection, by increasing the size and price of the volume, would render it less generally acceptable and useful, and greatly interfere with its adoption, by compelling the immediate change of books; whereas by a little care in the announcement of the hymn, those who are unable or unwilling to furnish themselves with this volume, may continue to use the books they have, until the greater convenience of *one book* shall have induced all to adopt it.

The same consideration has led to the admission of fewer alterations than might otherwise have been deemed desirable. These have in general been confined to a few words where the sentiment was incorrect, or the phraseology decidedly objectionable. Such a course seemed far preferable to the omission of a suitable and valuable