

far as possible from standards of worship, the omission of the portrait is accepted with unmingled satisfaction. The old preface, though it has been severely criticised and heartily condemned, contains as much sound sense and sober truth, with as little mawkish sentimentalism, as can be found in any composition of the same kind; but it is questionable whether, having accomplished its object, any good purpose could be served by its continued publication.

The minor improvements, of practical importance, in looking through this volume at once strike the eye. The typography is all that can be desired—clear and distinct, and quite refreshing to weak and weary eyes; where hymns are based upon passages of Scripture, the text is indicated. The number of the page is placed on the lower margin; and the number of the hymns, alone intended for announcement, is printed in bold prominent figures. There cannot be the chance for confusion which sometimes spreads through a congregation when the number of the page and that of the hymn, announced in the same breath, get inextricably mixed together.

The new hymn book contains three sections: the old collection of hymns for the use of the people called Methodists, nearly intact, a number of select psalms, and a supplement greatly enlarged.

The original "collection" comprises 539 hymns. This part of the book has been revised, but not substantially changed. The Conference had determined that it "should undergo no alteration which could affect its substance or impair its identity." In deference to a strongly conservative sentiment, the "collection," consecrated by sacred associations, is to be retained as a historic memorial of early Methodism. This feeling we can all appreciate, and, wherever practicable, would afford to it free and full play; but unquestionably it ought to be subordinate to great and vital and progressive interests of the Church of Christ. To objects rich and rare in antique and historic interest, preserved and paraded in the trophied temple, however musty and faded, there could be no possible objection; but we would never think of turning our homes into museums of relics and dusty mementoes. The home should be fresh and bright and full of life as the open-