

In the Committee's list are selections from 78 Psalms. This is perhaps too small a number. The Committee has stirred up some opposition, and partly defeated the object it had in view, by making too sweeping changes. For example, we miss selections from Psalms 28, 30, 33, 42, 85 and 107. 111, a favourite with many, is not on the list. Perhaps no Psalm is more used for baptismal services in our country congregations than 78 (1-6), yet it is excluded. However, the list is a valuable one, and serves a good purpose in impressing emphatically on the Church this fact, that our Psalter is fast going out of use. In most of our Sunday Schools and Prayer Meetings, Hymnals are used. The children and the young people of the Church know little about the Psalter. The Y. P. S. C. E. and the Y. M. C. A. both work strongly against it. Our young people, when leading meetings, or taking part in them, select and suggest hymns, not Psalms. Consequently the Psalter is being superseded. If we are to keep it in touch with the young life of our Church, and have it available for services, this we consider can be accomplished only by incorporating selections from the Psalms in our new Book of Praise.

But the question may be considered from another standpoint. Many of our good people grow indignant at the very suggestion of making selections, and strong deliverances have been made by some of our Presbyteries. One Presbytery "emphatically objects to any tampering with the Psalter on the part of the Church." Another "strongly deprecates any attempt to eliminate any part of the present collection of Psalms from the new Book of Praise." But what is the ground of objection? The strongest argument we have heard advanced may be expressed in the proverbial saying: "Keep a thing, its use will come." Days of violence may arise, and times of persecution be in store for the Church. Then Psalms which now seem unsuitable to the devotional spirit will find their place. Keep them in reserve. We are told that many of our forefathers in the time of persecution used the strong language of some almost forgotten Psalms. We may ultimately find ourselves in like straits. It is well to have the Psalter untouched, so that when the time comes, we may call down the wrath of heaven upon our enemies, and relieve our own feelings by singing such Psalms as 35, 38, or 109.