

THE PSALMS.

SYSTEMATIC liturgical Psalmody appears to have been originated by David (see 1 Chron. xvi. 7; 2 Chron. vii. 6), who set apart a choir of 248 singers, to be arrayed in white linen, for the service of song in the Temple. "All these were under the hands of their fathers for song in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, psalteries and harps for the service of the house of God." 1 Chron. xxv. 6. The Psalms, though called in the Prayer Book "The Psalms of David," were really written by a number of Psalmists, extending from Moses to Nehemiah. They are divided into five groups; the first (including 1-41), supposed to be written by David himself; the second (42-72), ascribed to the Levites, Azariah, David and Solomon; the third (73-89), ascribed to the Levites and Hezekiah; the fourth (90-106), ascribed to the Levites; and the fifth (107-150), ascribed to Moses, the Prophets, and Ezra. The divisions are marked by doxologies, which are found at the end of the four first divisions. It is commonly supposed that the hymn sung by our Lord and His disciples after the Last Supper was part of the Hallel, or Office of Praise (Ps. cxiii-cxviii.), which was sung at the Passover; the cxiii. and cxiv. being sung after the first cup of wine, and Ps. cxv.-cxviii. after the third cup, called the Cup of Blessing. See St. Matt. xxvi. 30.

That psalmody was used by the Apostolic Church appears from 1 Cor. xiv. 26, and Col. iii. 16, Eph. v. 19, Acts xvi. 25. "In the early Christian Church," says Procter, "the Psalms were so often repeated

that the poorest Christians could say them by heart, and used to sing them at their labours, in their houses, and in the fields." St. Basil, who lived in the fourth century, tells us that it was universally the custom of the Church in his time for the people to rise in the night and resort to the house of prayer to confess their sins and engage in psalmody. He also mentions that the people sang antiphonally, *i.e.*, side responding to side, and that sometimes one began the psalm and the rest joined in the close.

Children's Department.

WHICH LOVED BEST?

"I LOVE you, mother," said little John;
Then, forgetting his work, the cap went
on,
And off he ran to the garden spring,
And left her the water and wood to bring.

"I love you, mother," said rosy Nell,
"I love you better than tongue can tell;"
But she teased and pouted full half the
day,
Till her mother was glad when she went
to play.

"I love you, mother," said little Ian.
"To-day I'll help you all I can;
Oh, I'm glad that school I needn't keep!"
And she rocked the babe till it fell asleep.

Then, stepping softly, she fetched the
broom,
And swept the floor and tidied the room;
Busy and happy all day was she,
Helpful and happy as child could be.

"I love you, mother," again they said,
These three little children, on going to
bed;
But how do you think their mother guessed
Which of them really loved her the best?