

say few churches use more. A collection, therefore, of 775 (the number in the new hymnal) seems ample. In that respect the new is an improvement upon the old, there is not so much waste of paper. Of the 490 we have used from the old, nearly 400 we find in the new. Yet what possessed the editor to leave out such hymns as "Blest be the tie that binds," with a few other such of old and sacred memories, we cannot tell, though the insertion of such hymns as "I've found a Friend, Oh such a Friend," and of the old, "O come all ye faithful," goes far to atone for the omissions. The manifest attempt to maintain the author's words is praiseworthy, though to carry this out in case of alterations which a generation has made permanent may not be desirable. On the whole, we think this part of an editor's duty has been judiciously performed. All such ascertained alterations are marked. Of the 1,000 hymns in the older collection, 290 appear to have been taken, and of the 281 in the supplement 155. There are about 330 new hymns introduced. These new hymns embrace translations from some of the old mediæval writers, and a few of the best from the Sankey collection. We were pleased to see in the Children's Corner that hymn of our childhood, "I think when I read that sweet story of old."

That this will be a final collection we do not believe, as Dr. Allen writes: "Finality in the provision for service of song is as impossible as it were fatal. While each generation inherits what is most precious from the past, it will, so long as the church is a living church, bring its own contribution of fresh hymns and tunes, the exact expression of its own distinctive life." Yet our advice is, to churches looking for a hymn book, Get this one, it will last for many a day, and is on the whole the best selection for Congregational Churches which we have seen. True, the time honoured hymns of Watts have been mercilessly eliminated, about sixty only being retained; but Watts wrote some terrible trash, as every man must who wrote so many. Suffice it that his best have been preserved, and the sanctuary will not suffer from those left behind.

A few words as to the music. The tunes are printed with the hymns, a practice growing in favour with churches now. American hymn tunes have been largely influenced by music of the old "Boston Academy" class: quavers, semiquavers and slurs abundant. And our heart has been often cheered by the hearty ring of such tunes as "Desert," "Duke Street" and "Lenox." But the trained musical ear appears to bear with none of these. Such music has been described by a recent American compiler as "more attractive to the ear than appropriate to the sacred offices of religion," and an endeavour is avowedly made to introduce "the German choral writers, and that tune writing of the modern Anglican School which in the judgment of the compiler has so faithfully caught the spirit of divine worship." The "Congregational Church Hymnal" follows what this American compiler is endeavouring to encourage, is in short essentially English in its tunes and harmonies. Whatever our association or tastes may be, among professed musicians the class of tunes this work presents is that which alone finds favour. Our Canadian churches will do well to fall in line.

The Copp, Clark Company are prepared to fill orders for this new and excellent hymnal.

## THE YEAR-BOOK.

The Year Book is now ready for the reader, and is being despatched to subscribers. Churches and friends who have not yet sent in their orders are asked to do so. The value of the book depends considerably on its early perusal. It is a good issue.

August 23, 1887.

W. W. SMITH, *Editor*.

## CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The forty-ninth session of the college will be opened with the usual public services in the Assembly Hall of the college on Wednesday, September 14, at eight p.m., when the principal-elect will be formally inducted into office, and will deliver his inaugural address. All students of the college and probationers are expected to be present. A collection will be made in aid of the Library Fund.

Candidates for admission, and others who may have correspondence with the secretary on college matters, are notified that Rev. E. M. Hill, M.A., has been appointed acting-secretary during the absence of the secretary, until September 14. All communications may be addressed to Mr. Hill, 944 Dorchester Street, Montreal, and they will receive prompt attention. GEORGE CORNISH, *Sec. C.C.B.N.A.*

Montreal, June 18, 1887.

## CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Executive Committee of this society will meet (D.V.) in the Congregational College, Montreal, on Tuesday, the 13th September, 1887, at ten o'clock a.m. All parties having matters to lay before the committee will please communicate with the undersigned on or before the 10th of September. Students of the college who have been occupying stations during the vacation will please report to me by that date, if possible. JOHN WOOD, *Sec. C.C.M.S.*

Ottawa, August 16, 1887.

The following subscriptions have been received since the annual meeting in June: Collection at Annual Meeting, \$80.50; Economy, N. S., for 1886-87, \$33.75; Mount Zion, Toronto, for 1886-87, \$9; Kingsport, N. S., for 1886-87, \$5; Toronto Northern, \$100; Milton, N. S., Ladies' Home Missionary Society, \$23.50; Liverpool, N. S., Ladies' Home Missionary Society, \$21.50; Chebogue, N. S., Ladies' Home Missionary Society, \$8; Economy, N. S., Ladies' Home Missionary Society, \$10; Keswick Ridge, N. S., Ladies' Home Missionary Society, \$19.06; Sheffield, N. B., Ladies' Home Missionary Society, \$19; Collection, Annual Meeting N. S. & N. B., \$49.19; Brooklyn, N. S., \$5.25; Beach Meadows, N. S., \$6.50; Noel, N. S., for deficiency 1886, \$9.26; "A Friend of the Cause," Almonte, Ont., \$15; Humber Summit, Ladies' Aid Society, \$10. Total receipts to date, \$415.51.

The following is the amount of expenditure to date: Balance due former Treasurer, \$481.28; Amounts since paid, \$1,551.15; Total expenditure, \$2,032.43; Less amount received, \$415.51; Amount due Treasurer, \$1,616.92. SAMUEL N. JACKSON, *Treas.*

Kingston, August 9, 1887.