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THE NEW WESLEYAN HYMN BOOK.

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In a former paper an attempt was made to indicate some of the most distinctive excellences of Methodist hymnody. The new Wesleyan Hymn Book, published under the direction of the British Conference, now challenges attention; and with the question of a hymn book for the Methodist Church of Canada fairly open, entrusted to the consideration of an influential committee, to be reported upon at the next Quadrennial Conference, this new hymn book of British Methodism cannot but excite profound interest.

We miss, at the first glance, upon opening the volume, the engraving of the venerable founder of Methodism, by which former editions were embellished. This likeness of John Wesley, in childhood days, when a copy of these standard hymns formed an early and much-prized treasure, never failed to inspire feelings of veneration. There must have been in the case of "children of a larger growth" a measure of the same sentiment; for, when at one time this likeness was left out, the *vox populi* compelled its re-insertion. With all the convictions of later life and maturer judgment in favour of the elimination of the human element as