

And so as regards the hymn—

“I love to tell the story.”

It is less than solemn mockery of a person to sing this hymn who in all his life has never told this story, and who has had no heart to do it? And so, too, as regards the hymn in which occurs the verse—

“Here I give my all to Thee,
Friends, and time, and earthly store,
Soul and body Thine to be—
Wholly Thine for evermore.”

Sing it, and then pass the contribution box; and how much will you get? Some of the very persons who have been loudest in singing it will give hardly a penny, and not cheerfully at that. And as to “soul and body,” these they gave to the world.

These hymns and the like of them, are very good, but whether in a low condition of the Church, to say nothing of the state of the penitent who join in them, it is well to sing them, has long been a question with me. I was somewhat relieved of my difficulty as I read this morning the commentary of Matthew Henry on the 131st Psalm, which thus commences: “Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.” Henry says: “Some have made an objection against singing David’s Psalm, that there are many who cannot say, ‘My heart is not haughty,’ etc. It is true there are, but we may sing it for the same purpose that we read it, to teach and admonish ourselves and one another what we ought to be, with repentance that we have come short of being so, and humbly pray to God for His grace to make us so.” May all

“Our lips and lives express
The holy Gospel we profess,”

and may the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom, that so we may ever be prepared to teach and to admonish one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts unto the Lord.—*H. S., in New York Observer.*