

Since the hymn-singing era dawned on the Church of England, probably not less than 1,000 separate hymnals have been published for her use. At the very lowest computation, and that is probably far below the real number, there have been 500; whilst if those for special classes were added, the number would be vastly increased, probably doubled.

It is well known that long before the first hymn-book was introduced into the Church of England a few hymns were appended to the Psalms of Sternhold and Hopkins and Tate and Brady. This was the thin end of the wedge.

The first hymn-book, however, for use in the Church of England was that by John Wesley in 1737, entitled, *Collection of Psalms and Hymns. Charlestown. Printed by Lewis Timothy, 1737.* This was ten years before the foundation of Methodism. This contained seventy hymns, more than a third of which were by Dr. Watts. This was followed in 1760 by a collection by Madan, of a Calvinistic type, largely based on George Whitefield's book of 1753. This contained 100 more than Wesley's, and provided twenty-seven hymns for sacramental use, for which Wesley had made no provision. Seven years later appeared a collection edited by the Rev. R. Conyers, which embodied a large portion of Madan's, and added thereto a few new hymns by Cowper and Newton. Following these there were Dr. Conyer's collection in 1775, Toplady's in 1776, into which he introduced a few of his own hymns and many from Nonconformist writers. A few hymnals of no distinctive value appeared in the last quarter of the 18th century; whilst in the first half of the 19th century their name is legion, many of them being of provincial origin and scarcely known to the Church at large. Liberty became almost license. Hymn-book editing was regarded as a work which almost any clergyman was competent to undertake. Here and there a book attained to more than a local success and circulation—such as *Psalms and Hymns by Hugh Stowell, 1831*; *Psalms and Hymns for Public and Private Use, by W. H. Bathurst, in the same year*; *The Christian Psalmody, by Edward Bickersteth, in 1833*; *Psalms and Hymns for Public, Private, and Social Worship,*