

*To fill in turn their place.  
So age by age and year by year  
His grace was handed on."*

No. 65, v. 3, is on much the same lines:—

*"For the font's renewing waters,  
For the altar's feast divine,  
Ministry in changeless order,  
By the sacred three-fold line."*

This dogma of a tactual succession the very learned Dean Alford called "a fiction of which I find in the New Testament no trace."

The book would be the better if the Confirmation Hymn, No. 270, were omitted. V. 2:—

*"Before the Cross of Him who died,  
Behold, I prostrate fall."*

Why should we ever be cast back upon the materialistic, and the child be instructed to prostrate himself before the Cross and not before Him who died upon it?

#### **AN IMPERFECT HYMN BOOK.**

If this book had not been presented, and loudly applauded as "the best hymnal in the world," I might not have been inclined to examine minutely a work which is claimed to be perfect; but having done so, I ask a fair consideration of the question whether, in each of the fifty hymns referred to, there are not such inelegancies and unpoetic expressions as should have prevented them being included, without more or less alteration, in any "perfect hymn book." I simply trouble you with three:—

No. 640. A little poetic taste would have improved this hymn and made it conform to the scriptural account.