

THE BOOK OF PSALMS AND SACRED HARMONIES, with the words printed for expressive singing. *London: T. Nelson & Sons. Toronto: James Campbell. 1858.*

We find in this beautiful volume a new and improved edition of a publication originally issued by Messrs. Johnston & Hunter of Edinburgh. The music of the "Scottish Psalmody" is attached to the Psalms and Paraphrases in such a way, that the Tune selected may be before the eye along with the words that are sung. Prefixed is a classified index to the Psalms and Paraphrases, pointing out the tone and character of each, and suggesting the appropriate music. By printing particular verses and parts of verses in Italics, Capitals, &c., an effort is also made to indicate the special expression that ought to be given to those passages. This is designed to correct the too common practice of dull, lifeless, uniform, unintelligent singing.

Nothing is neglected to make the book invaluable to our Precentors, and to Heads of Families in conducting household worship. We are of those who desire a revision of the Scottish Paraphrases and Hymns, in order to secure at once a better collection of Sacred Songs, and a greater variety of metres. Such a variety would give opportunity for diversity and richness of musical expression, precluded by the perpetual common metres of the existing collection. But the best that can be done at present is done in the work before us, which is entitled to great praise and wide circulation.

THE BEAUTIFUL HOME, and other letters to a Child; by the Author of "Ministering Children," &c. *New York: Robt. Carter & Bros. Montreal: B. Dawson & Son. 1859. pp. 150.*

The title sufficiently indicates the character of this little book of religious instruction for the young. It is written in a fine spirit; and, bating a little grandiloquence here and there, is well adapted to interest and influence the minds of children.

THE SHEEPFOLD AND THE COMMON, OR THE EVANGELICAL RAMBLER. *New York, R. CARTER & BROTHERS. Montreal, B. DAWSON & SON. pp. 350.*

The preface to this book informs us that it was originally published about thirty years ago, that it then had a very extensive circulation in England and America, and that it has long since been out of print. It has been thoroughly revised by the author, and is now issued under a somewhat new title, with suitable and remarkably good wood cut illustrations. As might be expected, the style and character of this volume has a flavour of the time to which it belongs, and of the country in which its scenes are laid and its characters and incidents drawn. It is unmistakably an English book. The author is evidently a lover of the picturesque in nature, and in many parts writes with the flowing beauty of Hervey in his Theron and Aspasio. The stories which the volume contains are happily strung together, and very well told. It belongs to the better class of religious novels of which the works of Hannah More are types. Its evangelical piety and Catholic spirit are unquestionable. Between the pious churchman and dissenter it recognizes no line of separation. It aims too at breaking down the exclusive pretensions of High Churchism, and at supplying an antidote to the mysterious influence of Puseyism. We welcome this publication, as one most suitable for family reading, and for Sabbath School Libraries. It is beautifully printed, and is highly creditable to its spirited publishers in its external appearance. The illustrations are drawn and engraved by English artists, and are superior to those found in most American illustrated books. It will form a most suitable and interesting Christmas Gift to the young.