

ing." The stanza here used has a strange charm for me, and I am easily won by it. Yet I think there is more than the mere music of the verse to attract one to this hymn. It has some evident defects, if one were disposed to close criticism. For example, I do not like the bald literalness of the opening line, and the second half of the third stanza seems rather far fetched. But like Faber's "Hark, hark, my soul, etc.," it is marked by a strangely impressive indefiniteness that rather disarms criticism. The fourth stanza is a truly noble one. In it great thoughts find fitting expression.

No. 213 is a very fair hymn to the Trinity. Such hymns easily run off either into the stiffly doctrinal, or else into some other theme. It was natural that Bonar should pass to the praises of the Redeemer—a theme so near his heart. It is a hymn that may readily degenerate into a weak jingle if carelessly read. For the same reason it requires stately music. "Vesper Hymn" would spoil it; whereas "Regent Square" clothes it in becoming dignity and majesty. No. 237 is on a congenial theme for Bonar. The hymn is thoroughly Scriptural in thought and has a good deal of the flavor of genuine song about it. "Fresh from the Throne of Glory (No. 243) is not suited to public worship. Few persons get any clear conception of its meaning. However it is full of movement and is catching—a feature which has carried it into popularity.

No. 356, "I was a wandering Sheep," has become a great favorite. And no wonder. For it catches the thought of the parable and expresses in beautiful simplicity some of the tenderest reflections of the devout soul. Its good fortune in being wedded to a taking tune will help to ensure it a lasting popularity, notwithstanding its manifest defect as a work of art. He has failed to work out uniformly the thought of the Shepherd and the Father. This has been felt as the variations in the hymn books show. For "He" in the second stanza, several editions have "They," and the fourth stanza is greatly changed. The new Canadian Baptist Hymnal has "They," and omits the fourth stanza. I feel sure that the English Baptist Hymnal has the original form—though the changes made in the American Baptist Hymnal improve it.

No. 357 is here credited to Dr. Bonar, but in Sankey's