

# THE THEOLOGUE.

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## Presbyterian College, Halifax.

*“THE PROPOSED NEW BOOK OF PRAISE.”*

IN the consideration of this book of the future, there are two great questions of debate in our Presbyteries. First, shall the entire Psalter, as it stands, be included, or shall we incorporate selections only, and some new versions in our new Book of Praise? The last word has not yet been spoken, and perhaps some light may come as we look at the subject from the standpoint of usage.

Have we any use for the complete Psalter? Most of our ministers have already made their own books of selections. Though some have attempted to use all the Psalms, very few have succeeded. One, who made a bold start, and proceeded in regular order through many services, lost the support of his congregation and had to come to a halt at Psalm 50. The principle of selection has been virtually adopted by all, and many of the Psalms have been practically discarded for years. It may be safely said that one-third of our Psalms are rarely used, and fully one-half of them are not well-known to most of our people. In one moderately conservative Presbytery, lists of the Psalms in use were carefully prepared. Here are some of the results from fifteen reports sent in. Two pastors used as many as 100 Psalms each, the third highest numbered 99 on his list. The three lowest used 33, 29 and 28 respectively. 11 Psalms were used by none. 16 Psalms were not in use by more than one. 14 were not in use by more than two. 15 Psalms were used by all. The average number of Psalms in use was 69. These are significant figures.