

The Hymnal Companion,

CAROLS AND PRAYER-BOOKS.

As this Hymnal is, unfortunately, used in many professedly Evangelical churches, I offer the following remarks for the benefit of those of my brethren who have not time to examine the insidious work themselves, as well as for those who are in search of a sounder selection, merely adding that I have always been a lover of hymns, and for nearly the last score of years have made the subject a particular study, and fully agree, therefore, with the remarks of the Rev. G. W. Butler, Rector of Broadmaynes, Dorchester, Eng., who said of this Hymnal, in 1873, "Here also the ecclesiastical element prevails, and, under conspicuous headings, abound Hymns for Lent, Hymns for Passion Week, Hymns for Saints' Days. . . . Here are found the least satisfactory hymns of the soundest, and the 'most satisfactory' of the least sound, among hymn writers. Roman Catholic and professedly High Church poets stand in equal favour with loved and venerated Evangelical fathers." Another of my friends, a Canon of our Church, said, when it first appeared, he feared it was *too Churchy*, and since then many notes of disapproval have appeared in different papers.

To simplify the matter, and rather than give my own opinion, I will compare this Hymnal with a few others, and principally with the Irish Church Hymnal (I. C. H.), Common Praise (C. P.), Hymns for the Service of the King (H. S. K.), and Kemble's New Church Hymn Book, published after the death of the late Prebendary in 1873.