

get on creditably. Where are the sons of poor men to get an education at this rate? Members of the College Faculty ought to put down the brakes on the growing expensiveness of students' habits. Should like to see the College expel any student who spends over \$600 in a College year.—*N. Y. Express*.

Moony is a shrewd man at answering questions. "What do you think of the present system in our theological seminaries?" asked somebody at one of his meetings. "I have no opinion about it," was the sensible reply. "I never went through a theological seminary, and I never talk about anything I know nothing about."

The *Lariat* says there are 156 college papers published in the United States.

### Hymns and Psalms and Spiritual Songs.

By J. MacLaren, Professor of Sacred Music, Presbyterian College.

**T**HAT the service of Praise is founded on divine authority is universally admitted throughout the Presbyterian denomination. Whether heartily engaged in, or otherwise, all are prepared to admit the propriety and importance of the exercise, not only as a matter of duty, but as a means of expressing the devotion and adoration of the renewed heart. The acceptable sacrifice of praise implies the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the regeneration of the heart, and the consecration of the whole nature, without which the service, however tastefully performed, is but a solemn mockery.

In no branch of our communion is this service dispensed with entirely; wherever we have a duly constituted church, there is to be heard ascending the voice of Praise. Therefore, on divine authority and example, and on the fact of its being universally adopted by us, and adapted to us as a means of communion with God, we unhesitatingly affirm it to be the duty, nay, the high privilege of every member of our church to engage heartily, intelligently and devoutly in the service of praise in the sanctuary.

The page of revelation supplies the sublime refrain of the songs of the celestial choristers, but our spirits yearn in vain to catch their lofty strains, for "whilst this muddy vesture of decay doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it;" and thus the songs of our pilgrimage are but the groanings of sin-burdened spirits, "earnestly desiring to be clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." Yet, blessed thought, the feeble efforts of our stammering tongues are a 'pleasing sacrifice;' when, assembled with one accord in the temple, we, with hearts attuned to the melody of heaven by the divine harmonist, uplift our voices in praise to God. Thus wave after wave of earth's militant song is borne aloft to the throne of the

Eternal, and, blending in perfect unison with the harmonies of heaven, becomes an odour of a sweet smell—"a sacrifice well-pleasing unto God."

Our duty then as a church and as individuals is very obvious. We should seek to have the music of our church services as heartily joined in as possible by everyone; and to this end it is manifestly indispensable that an individual acquaintance with the art of music should be as universal as practicable. It is true that this knowledge implies training, as well as the possession of a certain amount of musical taste, and an appreciation of Time, Tune and Force—the three primary elements of music; but these qualifications will be found to be more generally distributed and more easily developed than, perhaps, at first sight we might be inclined to believe.

To our ministers and students this subject is of the utmost importance, and should commend itself to their special attention. The amount of good accomplished in our church through the untiring zeal of her music-loving ministers cannot be over-estimated; indeed, nothing can be more helpful to the service than music from the pulpit, and nothing can be more cheering to the hearts of the psalmody reformers of our church than the marked and steady increase in the number of gospel-singing preachers of the word. That this increasing interest in singing, on the part of our ministers and students, will lead to further improvement in this direction is self-evident; that further years shall witness our Church Courts devising means whereby the standard of our psalmody may be elevated is a consummation devoutly to be wished, worked and waited for, by every active member and adherent of our Canada Presbyterian Church. With abundance of latent power on every side; with increased and ever-increasing facilities for acquiring musical knowledge; with the "New Canadian Psalter and Hymn Book" placed in our hands; with a staff of musical missionaries and teachers who might be set apart to the oversight of the psalmody of our church, we may yet find the singing in all our congregations raised to a standard of excellence hitherto unattained. If two laymen, by means of gospel-preaching and gospel-singing, have moved all christendom, what glorious results might we not expect if our beloved church would rise to the dignity and responsibility of her calling in the service of praise? God being thus loved, honored and served, we may expect the spirituality of the congregations to be developed, the missionary staff increased, the evangelization of the world assured. These grand results cannot be attained except by divinely appointed means, such as gospel preaching and praying in the pulpit, and earnest and spiritual worship and singing with melody of heart in the pews; and thus each congregation becomes a power, and all the churches of Christ a mighty power for making conquests in the heathen world, until the whole race shall be brought under the