

PREFACE.

by omitting imperfect or inferior stanzas. In a few instances, where some solecism, or offensive confusion of figures, marred a beautiful hymn, it was thought better to adopt an appropriate emendation, than to perpetuate a blemish that could be removed without lessening the lyrical or devotional value of the hymn.

"In this book, all that constitutes the richness and attractive beauty of Wesleyan hymnology has been retained; and over three hundred of the choicest modern and ancient hymns have been added. In the selection of new hymns, particular attention has been given to increase the number of those suitable for public worship and special occasions, while having careful regard to lyrical harmony and doctrinal soundness. The unity and completeness of the classification, the number and excellence of the new hymns, and the carefully prepared headings, indicating the subject of every hymn, must greatly enhance the popularity and usefulness of this collection. The Committee, in presenting the result of their labours to the Church, cherish a confident hope that this Hymn-Book, with its rich variety of grand and inspiring songs of praise, will give a new impulse to the worship and devotion of our people; and that it will long continue to be an effective means of guiding sinners to the Saviour, and increasing the faith and love of the thousands who follow Christ under the banners of our Canadian Methodism."

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