

J. C. M.

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"Ad profectum sacrosanctæ matris Ecclesiæ et studii."

HYMN BOOK OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

THE last few years have been prolific of Hymn Books and Hymns of every kind. It may also be said that many very good ones have been produced or brought to the knowledge of English readers by translators. Keble, Lyle,* Trench, Alford, and many others have given us Hymns full of real piety and deep Christian feeling. The translations of Hymns of the Latin and Greek Churches, by J. M. Neale, have already naturalized among us many Hymns which to other high qualifications add the charm of antiquity. We need only mention "Jerusalem the Golden" and "The Strain upraise," as two which are widely known and liked. Then we have men of poetic minds and critical tastes employing their time in making collections of sacred poetry. Roundell Palmer's researches have given us the "Book of Praise"; and to Rev. O. Shipley we owe the *Lyræ, Messianica, Eucharistica* and *Mystica*; while the *Germanica, Anglicana*, with a list of others too long to enumerate, furnish a supply from which all tastes may be suited. As a natural consequence of this activity among writers and compilers, many have tried their hands at selecting Hymns for public worship.

It is sometimes regretted that we have no authorized Hymn Book, the use of which should be as general as that of the Prayer Book; but certainly, whatever may be thought of the desirableness of such a collection, it must be a matter of congratulation that none has yet been made, for it is evident that any book compiled even a few years ago would necessarily be without the many new hymns which are equal if not superior to the best of those before within the reach of the English reader. This the American Church felt so strongly that they have appointed a committee to select additional hymns for their authorized book. In this Diocese we have had a similar experience. The "Nova Scotia Hymn Book" was unfortunately compiled just before what we may call the Revival of Hymnology, and though doubtless it was of average merit, at the time of its first publication, it falls far short of what a Hymn Book would be which was selected from the materials now at the command of a compiler.

On this account we are glad to see that a committee of the Synod have recommended the use of the S. P. C. K. Hymn Book in our churches, and that the Bishop has concurred in their recommendation. His Lordship in the letter to the Clergy in our September number, briefly enumerated several of the advantages arising from the use of this book. Its low price is a great advantage to poor congre-

* The author of the favourite Hymn, "Abide with me."