

Preface

While the Book in its content, by preserving that which has become endeared by long use and hallowed association, is true to the spirit and tradition of our Church, its larger aim is to offer a collection of spiritual songs widely representative of the Hymnody of the Church universal. Canticles of the ancient Church, translations and transfusions of early and mediæval Greek and Latin Hymns, songs of the time of the Reformation and period following, and a rich appropriation from the treasures of modern English Hymnody, at once bring those who use them into communion of worship with the Church of the past, and with all who to-day call upon the name of the Lord Jesus, their Lord and ours.

Great care has been taken in verifying the text of the hymns, the sources having been examined whenever this was possible; and in every case in which it has been judged necessary to depart from the original text, or from a text other than the original but approved by the Author, this has been indicated in the Music and Pica editions by a mark (†) placed after the name of Author, Translator, or Source. In most instances the variations adopted in the Book are such as have approved themselves universally, and have become of the essence of the hymn. On the other hand, where a portion of a hymn has been omitted, either because the entire hymn is too long for congregational use, or because certain verses have been deemed unsuitable, it has not been considered necessary to give indication of such omission.