

from the Psalter or the complete Psalter. We can affirm that, when the psalms are sung to their noble tunes in the proper spirit, sympathy and force, the children delight to sing them. Further, we cannot hope to retain the psalms in their rightful prominence in the church service if the children, who are the adult members to be, do not learn to know and love them in the Sabbath-school. The Psalter is intended not less for the children than for the older people, for the command is given in it, "Both young men and maidens, old men and children, let them praise the name of the Lord." This of itself is a very weighty reason for the use of the Book of Praise in the Sabbath-school.

2. *Because of the comprehensive nature of the contents.*

In addition to the psalms, as above mentioned, there is not only a rich section "for the young," containing nearly one hundred hymns, but we have a great body of the great hymns of the centuries; besides an ample proportion of modern "Gospel Songs."

It is worthy of careful note that, of the 253 hymns in the enlarged edition of the "Children's Hymnal" of our Church, now withdrawn from publication, 215 are to be found in the Book of Praise; whilst 214 of the pieces in "Sacred Songs and Solos" are also in our book. Of the latter a goodly number are great hymns of all churches, which the compilers of our book have wisely included, whilst a large proportion represent the best of the "Gospel Songs."

Thus it is evident that there is most ample provision of simple songs for the children.

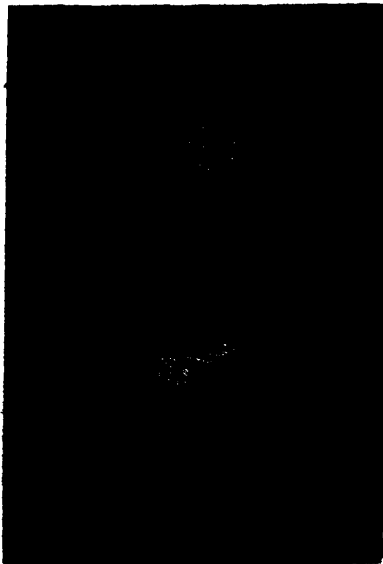
It may be objected that many of the hymns in the Book of Praise are beyond the comprehension of the children. In reply we would urge the importance of teaching the children in view of the future. Store the mind now, and, as the years pass, that which had little meaning becomes richer and richer with the growth of spiritual and intellectual life. This is one purpose surely, in our desire to teach the children the Shorter Catechism, much of which they cannot yet understand. With this end in view, we ought to familiarize their minds with the great psalms and noble hymns. Nor must we underestimate their power to understand, nor forget that the children have a right to the best. I unhesitatingly say that the abundance of psalms and hymns in the

Book of Praise is far more fully adapted to the real needs and best interests of the children than any other collection now in use.

3. *Because of the reflex influence, the one upon the other, of praise in the church and praise in the Sabbath-school.*

To have one book for all services gives an immense advantage in the securing of general and hearty praise in all.

Let the minister spend a little time in watching, sensitively and with great care, what psalms and hymns the children love and sing best in the school. Let him use these judiciously in the church



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service, and the children will unconsciously form a choir throughout the congregation. Let the superintendent, on the other hand, note the best hymns used in the church service, and new hymns and tunes that are striking; let these be judiciously used in the Sabbath-school, and church and Sabbath-school praise will of necessity be improved.

If the energy of the young people be distributed over several hymn-books containing different types of hymns, both church and Sabbath-school praise will suffer.