

which the church may use in the praise of God. Few will admit, surely, that the only form of psalm suitable for use is the monotonous common metre version which our church has persistently, yea, almost stubbornly, used for the past two hundred and thirty years. That monotonous version has kept the music of the church at low-water mark, if not stranded hopelessly, in many places for generations. The metre to be chosen should certainly be in keeping with the spirit of the psalm. The whole sentiment of the poem may be changed by putting it in shackles of unsuitable verse. Some of those noble, heroic psalms chained in such metre are like Samson shorn of his strength, blinded, and sent to grind in the prison-house of his enemies. The twenty-fourth, the twenty-ninth, and the forty-seventh are illustrations of the unsuitableness of common metre to express the spirit of the psalm.

The book of praise for a congregation should have a wide range of subjects. If the service is to have unity in it, then there must be songs of sufficient variety to cover the themes of scripture teaching, and also the religious experience of the people. A magazine article is not the place to specify the topics which should be embraced.

The songs of general praise and thanksgiving should be many and varied, as should also be those of Christian experience, setting forth confession and supplication in wide variety.

Few days pass in which songs of comfort in sorrow and bereavement are not required. In our larger congregations "never morning wears to evening but some heart does break," and so hymns of comfort are largely needed if the service is to be a help and a blessing to such.

One element in which the hymnal now in use is seriously deficient is that of songs calling forth Christian activity. There are many psalms which make a special appeal to the Jew, as a Jew, and rouse him to the pitch of enthusiasm. Here come in most appropriately songs with a chorus. The first song of praise on record, as we have seen, is one with an enthusiastic chorus. Men's voices sang, and women's answered. We have various examples of chorus songs in the psalms, and also where one part of the people answered another in the rendering of them. In the Book of Revelation we have a most beautiful example of