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Toronto, March, 8, 1894.

The Book of Praise.

IT is quite clear that the question of hymnal revision will not be disposed of at the General Assembly without a hard struggle and warm controversy. It has been made manifest that views, wide asunder as the poles, are still earnestly held within the membership and ministry of the church, and that in order to bring the conflicting opinions which exist together on a working basis, will call for all the skill and forbearance which can be commanded in the church. Of course it is a forgone conclusion that revision must come. Very few indeed, would deny the desirableness of an improved Book of Praise. But so diverse are the opinions as to the form the book should assume, that no definite proposal yet made has secured anything like the general support which it would be necessary to warrant its adoption by the church. The success, the usefulness of the Book of Praise will in no small measure depend upon the cordiality of the welcome with which it will be received, and no effort should be spared to bring the book as near the prevailing feeling as possible. The divergent views are fairly well known among the congregations. Much publicity has been given to the many phases of the question. Presbyteries have devoted much and earnest thought to the subject, and the press and people have been intensely interested in the discussions. If we have estimated aright the opinions so far expressed, it would seem that the weight of positive opinion is against a modification or re-arrangement of the psalmster. At the same time a great number of ministers view this branch of the subject from the standpoint of expediency and will be largely influenced by a desire for practical unanimity and peace. As to the revision of the hymnal, naturally feeling is not so deeply touched. Opinions greatly differ, and will differ, as to the praise value of certain hymns, but no battle royal need be expected on this ground. So far the indications are that a better collection of hymns than the old one, will be evolved from the close siftings of the presbyteries. If the book should eventually emerge, preserving the psalmster entire, and a happy selection of hymns the labours of the courts will not have been in vain. Although most presbyteries will have by this time drawn up their findings; the time for earnest discussion is by no means past. Few subjects affecting the inner work of the church are of equal importance, as that of public praise, and the people ought to be fully informed of the proposed changes, and kept in touch with every development.

Jewish Mission Work.

The current number of the Quarterly Register, which circulates among the allied churches holding the Presbyterian system, which is practically saying that it is read all over the world, gives space to an appreciative notice of the Canadian Mission to the Jews in Palestine. Here are a few sentences which will indicate the tone of the article, and which will also give a few interesting facts about the Mission:—"The Canadian Presbyterian Church enjoys the honour of being the first of its Transatlantic brethren, or sisters, to have a mission to the Jews in Palestine. With all the work of Home Evangelisation on their hands, the members of that Church seem to understand that activity at home will be in direct proportion to activity abroad. Having so much to do at home, they feel that they cannot afford to neglect, or to omit, work abroad, and hence, their great Foreign Mission zeal. Missions in the New Hebrides, in the West Indies, in India, in China, have abundantly shown their life and energy, and now they have crowned their enterprise by breaking ground in Palestine itself. Some years ago a sum of money was bequeathed for the purpose of such a mission, but not until last year was one actually commenced. It was decided to commence with a medical mission, and one of the most promising of the young ministers of the Church, who had taken a full course of medicine, was selected as the pioneer agent. Dr. Webster has now spent a year in Palestine carefully surveying the whole country, and has, at length, selected Haifa as the sphere of his future labour.

"The little town lies on the northern slope of Mount Carmel and creeps up the side of the hill for a considerable distance, for Mount Carmel is not the bold mountain bluff that we often imagine. It overlooks the Bay of Acre, the slope of the mountain rising from the sea shore. It is visited regularly by European steamers. Lawrence Oliphant lived there for several years; but, at present, special attention is directed to the locality in view of the railway which is being made to connect it with Damascus, and thus to tap the fertile Hauran, so that the immense crops of that region shall find their way to the sea-side through Haifa. The line is already made in part, and an American company is busily engaged in its construction, contracting to have it open for traffic within the next two years. This will probably be done, for there is everything in the formation of the country in its favour. For five-and-twenty miles east from Haifa the line will run on the Great Plain, treeless and level as a prairie; then, it will cross the Jordan, and rise to the level of the Hauran, when it will be on a plateau that extends to the very gates of Damascus. It is expected that, when open, the ordinary trains will run from Damascus to Haifa in five hours, and quick passenger trains in three. With the opening of this line there promises to be a most important future for that whole district, and the Canadian Church has done well in pre-empting the land for mission work."

Welcome Gifts. Rev. Dr. Reid has pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the following bequests, made by the late Mrs. John McBean, of Jarvis St., Toronto:—For the aged and Infirm Ministers Fund, \$500; for the training of native teachers in Formosa, \$500; for Home Missions, \$200.