

than any other of its inhabitants. Some said he was the king's own son. In process of time the grim officer came for him also and led him away without the wall. But so great was the authority and power of this princely man, that he could not be held in custody. The gate through which he had passed opened again at his demand. He reappeared among his fellow-citizens, and by his return he proved that the king's true men, when they left the city, did not pass into a land of nothingness but, as he said, were conducted by their stern escort into a more glorious city, the home of the great king.

Toronto

ONE HOME DEPARTMENT

By Rev. W. H. Smith, B.D., Ph.D.

Indifference, interest, adoption, enthusiasm, these mark the history of the Home Department in Summerside. It was organized about two years ago, following the general plan of having a superintendent and visitors in each district. It soon became evident that, whilst the people were eager to carry on the studies, there was great difficulty in securing visitors who could promptly attend to the work. After a few months it was reorganized under the supervision of an indefatigable elder, the clerk of session. He has been superintendent and visitors, all in one, calling at every home at the proper time, receiving the reports and leaving the material for the next quarter. With this invaluable oversight the work has been satisfactory. It means a great deal of time and labor, but the superintendent has been permitted to see the complete success of the plan.

We have not, perhaps, had sufficient experience to judge of the ultimate value of this department, but there are a few things already established. One is, that it has been a decided help in fostering the spirit of Bible study. The last year opened with 50 members and closed with 53. The returns show that, of a possible 2650 lessons, 2220 had been studied. Considering the unavoidable interruptions during the summer months, the result has been most gratifying, and fully justifies the high expectations of the advo-

cates of the Home Department. In addition to the individual interest, it has also quickened a deeper interest in the Sunday School, by uniting parent and child in a common study and aim. This must be regarded as a forward step. It brings to many minds valuable suggestions toward a better understanding of the scriptures, develops a method of study, and teaches the scholar how to utilize available material.

Then, again, it has contributed to the financial strength of the Sunday School. After paying all necessary expenses, over \$25 per year has been added to the general funds. Thus, in addition to the individual benefit, it has made possible much better work in the school, and has helped to solve some problems. It seems capable of even greater usefulness in this respect. By enlisting the sympathy of a large number who cannot attend the school, it has provided a medium by which their practical assistance can be secured in the interests of all that concerns its work.

But there are other possibilities. By creating and strengthening an interest in systematic Bible study in the home, it prepares the way for the adoption of a better system of instruction. With the present opportunities, the church should make a determined effort to secure the whole-hearted co-operation of each home in its own spiritual culture and for the upbuilding of the Sunday School.

Summerside, P. E. I.

THE HYMN BOOK OF THE AGES

[The First of Two Articles]

By Rev. Prof. John E. McFadyen, B.A. (Oxon.)

The Hebrew Psalter is the hymn book of the holy catholic church throughout the world. It has been from the beginning, and in all probability it will be to the end. Even where the Psalms are not directly used, their words and thoughts have been appropriated, so that many of the noblest modern hymns are but echoes of the songs of the ancient Jewish church, and written under the immediate inspiration of the Psalter. It will be enough to recall Luther's great hymn :