

## PREFACE.

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TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND IN THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Though the custom of singing hymns, in time of Divine Service, appears to be recommended in Holy Scripture, has the sanction of the immemorial usage of the Catholic Church, and has prevailed extensively in our own communion, it has been always found to be a difficult task to collect a body of hymns suitable for general use. The Psalms of David were apparently turned into metre to meet this difficulty, and perhaps to render other hymns unnecessary. But they have not answered the purpose. The truth is, that the versifiers of the psalms undertook an impossible task. Suitable as some of the psalms are for use as hymns, many of them, from their length, and for other reasons, can never be sung. There are also two other reasons which forbid us to hope for a successful result, in any metrical version of the psalms. First, it is impossible to convey the mystical or Christian sense of the words