

PREFACE

idea of the amount of detail involved in the labours of the Committee. In making the selection the Committee have carefully examined the hymnals of our own Church and also other collections.

The usual course in the compilation of hymnals is for the Literary Editor or Committee first to prepare and arrange the material, and then to hand it over to a musical editor for the preparation of an edition with tunes. In the compilation of this hymn-book the selection of the words and tunes was made by the same committee. The advantages of this latter course were many: e.g. hymns, especially those written in unusual metres, were passed upon from the point of view not only of their intrinsic merit, but also of the practicability of setting them to suitable music; for it was felt that however great may be the literary merit of a hymn, its value for congregational use depends largely upon the music to which it is set: or where two hymns were proposed of equal merit covering the same ground, or a hymn had been translated into English in different metres, the Committee by considering the music and the words at the same time were thus enabled to choose the hymn set to the better music.

Again, in the matter of order and arrangement a plan has been adopted which, while not in any degree impairing the literary excellence of the book, has permitted the Committee to adhere more closely to the system of grouping hymns of the same metre, in order that, as a rule, at one place more than one tune for the same hymn may be found. Alternative tunes are thus supplied without increasing the bulk of the book, the first tune being on the left-hand page and the second on the right, each over different words. As a result of the use of different hymnals in Canada, some hymns had in various parishes and dioceses become wedded to different tunes. By the adoption of the above system the Committee trust that the difficulty caused by this diversity has been largely overcome.

The General Hymns, Hymns for Children, for Missions, and for Parochial Missions, have been arranged alphabetically as far as the above system would permit. The Index of Subjects and the Index of Texts will facilitate the choice of hymns, as will also the tabulated lists hereinafter referred to.

One of the aims of the Committee has been to make the book thoroughly practical, and to that end they have provided all necessary indexes, references, directions, and explanations. Attention is called to the following details, some new and others adopted from various sources:—

1. The transposition of tunes in many cases to lower keys as more suitable for congregational singing.
2. The setting of a tune in different keys (with cross references) where the tune occurs more than once.
3. The tabulated lists of hymns suitable for Sundays and Holy Days.
4. The tabulated lists of hymns suitable for use as easy anthems by small choirs.
5. The placing among 'General Hymns' of hymns of a special character, suitable also for general use, with a reference under the special season.
6. The numbering of stanzas.
7. Asterisks indicating what stanzas may be omitted on occasion, if it is found advisable to shorten a hymn.
8. Where the first line of a hymn varies in different hymnals, the insertion of both forms in the index: e.g. 'Glory to Thee, my God, this night,' 'All praise to Thee, my God, this night.'
9. The indication of dates in the case of Saints' Days, &c.
10. Where hymns are paraphrases of Psalms, or of other passages from Holy Scripture, the clear indication of this fact.
11. The inclusion of a number of standard carols; of 'The Story of the Cross,' and of the 'Story of the Advent of Jesus.'
12. The inclusion of some hymns which have only of late acquired a popularity which promises to be lasting: e.g. hymns from Stainer's 'Crucifixion.'
13. The ample selection of hymns for special occasions.
14. The fuller provision made for processions and also for short closing hymns, sometimes known as 'vesper hymns.'
15. The printing at the foot of hymns of the names of authors and translators, with dates of publication.
16. The full provision of hymns for Lent, for Children, and for Missionary Services.
17. The provision of hymns for older boys and girls.
18. The full supplementary lists given under special seasons and occasions.
19. The printing in many cases and the suggestion in other cases of additional tunes.