

whose labours it is chiefly due. It probably contains as much that is poetic as is consistent with its very high doctrine, but its acceptance is not such as to warrant further description.

*The Berwick Hymnal* deserves mention as representing the opposite pole of the theological and ecclesiastical compass.

Marvellous in comprehensiveness is the Church which has given rise to *The People's Hymnal* on the one side, and *The Berwick Hymnal* on the other, whilst equally wonderful is it, that a Church which at one time sneered at hymn-singing should now be on the high road to rival, even if it does not excel Dissenters, in the cultivation and use of hymns.

The relative popularity of the principal hymnals may, perhaps, be judged from their use in London. According to the new *Mackeson's Guide to London Churches*, *Hymns Ancient and Modern* is now used in five hundred and eighty churches, *Church Hymns* in one hundred and eighty-three, and *The Hymnal Companion* in one hundred and seventy-five. *Mercer*, which ten years ago was used in forty churches, has disappeared from all but seven, *Kemble* has shrunk from fifteen to eight, and *Windle* from twelve to four. During the last six years *Hymns Ancient and Modern* has gained a place in thirty-eight, *Church Hymns* in twelve, and *The Hymnal Companion* in ten churches.

Of Church of England hymnody as a whole it may be said—

1. That the general tendency has been to rely on the old rather than the new. That section of it which follows the Catholic tradition reverts very largely to hymns from ancient and mediæval sources, whilst that which follows the Puritan tradition favours hymns by the earlier authors of that school of thought. In the new *Supplement to Hymns Ancient and Modern* recourse has also been had to what may be roughly called Puritan sources of hymnody, such as Dr. Watts, Charles Wesley, and others. In the case of Charles Wesley, however, hymns which in their letter incline to the sacramentarian idea have been chosen.

2. The bulk of hymns in Church of England hymnals have a pretty distinct doctrinal tone. Some are little more