

cause of hymnology, this is immeasurably the weakest and the worst. There is an element of wickedness in it that should secure its universal reprobation. It is founded on the assumption, that fallible man knows better the necessities of the Christian Church in the matter of praise, than the Holy Spirit, and that he is better qualified to prepare songs adapted to Christian assemblies than the Holy Ghost who indited the Psalms, and intended them for the use of the Church in every age of the Gospel dispensation until the second advent of the Lamb of God. It is founded on the assumption, that "Christian consciousness," as it is called, is a better judge of what is needed and proper in praise, than the Spirit of inspiration who indited the Psalms for all states of the Church, and for all time.

Those who cannot see Christ and Christianity in the Book of Psalms furnish evidence that they are of those who "having eyes see not." The Psalms are full of Christ. What matters it that the *name* Jesus is not there, when all that the name imports meets us every where? There is no portion of the Old Testament quoted so frequently in the New, as the Book of Psalms; and in every quotation, the allusion is to Him who saves his people from their sins. "When the apostle would prove the supreme *divinity* of Christ, he appeals almost exclusively to the Psalms. Of seven quotations, in the first chapter of the Hebrews, from the Old Testament, six are from the Book of Psalms. When he would show the necessity of the Redeemer's *incarnation*, he quotes from the Psalms. When he would show the *Divine origin*, the *dignity*, the *efficiency*, and *permanence* of the *priesthood* of Christ, he turns to the Psalms. When he brings forward the doctrine of his *ascension* to the right hand of the Father, and his investiture with *universal authority*, he shows that the same is taught in the Book of Psalms." (See Sommerville on Psalmody). For any one, therefore, to affirm that the Psalms are not suited to Christian worship, because they do not meet the requirements of the Christian heart, in the service of song, is in opposition to the testimony of the Divine word, and is contradicted by the experience of a "great cloud of witnesses" who have risen to the highest attainments in the Christian life.

In regard to the beauty and excellency of the Psalms, and their adaptation to the purposes of Christian praise, it is pleasing to quote the testimony of Dr. Medley, the Bishop of New Brunswick and Metropolitan of Canada. In a recent sermon, His Lordship gave expression to the following facts and sentiments:—"It was a characteristic of the Church of England to assign portions of the Psalter to be used in the service, while with many other sects it has become an almost universal custom to substitute modern hymns for the Psalms. These might possess Christian truths beautifully and feelingly expressed, but they did not possess the power, lofty imagination, and grandeur which belong to the Psalms." \* \* \* "There were great remarkable features in the Psalms, one of the most noteworthy being their purity." \* \* \* "Another remarkable feature of the Psalms was that they are common to all classes of men. They are proper to be sung by children as well as by their elders. Although written by a king, they are appropriate to the poor man. They are household words in every well instructed family."