

II

Endless praise to Thee belongs,
 Morn and eve in holy songs,
 Thou who reign'st in life above,
 Effulgence of eternal love,
 We, a joyful tribute bring,—
 The universal Anthem sing.

The only other remnant of ancient sacred song is an evening hymn in the Apostolic constitutions, but as it is only a variation of the Song of the Angels, it is unnecessary to our purpose to give a translation of it.

Altogether apart from the rare delight of reading the very words, and entering into the devotions that cheered and animated the hearts of the early Christians, those hymns are of great value in the argument against Unitarianism and Romanism, both of which are at variance with these sentiments. In the first argument they have been ably used by Dr. Pye Smith, in his "Scripture testimony for the Messiah." In the other, they may be used to show that in the age when these hymns prevailed, prayer and praise were given to the Three-One God, to the entire exclusion of Saints; but we desire in a few words to apply them to another purpose. In looking at the Scripture Paraphrases allowed by our Church, to be used in public devotions, we find a number of them lacking alike in the clear statement of Apostolic doctrine, and in the true spirit of devotion. As sacred poems we admire them, but as hymns or spiritual songs for public worship very many of them are inappropriate. What is needed is a selection of Scripture Paraphrases of a purely devotional character. The real nature, as well as the value and importance of this part of public worship has been little understood by the Churches, and the collections of hymns used among Protestants, are, almost without exception, to a great extent unsuitable for praise. The defects in the Hymn-books have tended to foster those abuses which in many congregations have turned this part of public worship into a mere musical entertainment by an organist or a choir. We deprecate any change that would lead us in this direction. But we believe a change for the better might be made, by the substitution of devotional Scripture Paraphrases for many of those now in use, which all acknowledge to be unsuitable. Holding fast our Psalms in metre as among our best spiritual treasures, we would nevertheless advocate the selection of some truly devotional hymns, hymns of praise to the adorable Trinity, hymns magnifying the Lord for his perfections and excellent works, hymns extolling the matchless work of redeeming love, hymns expressive of gratitude for all the gracious benefits He hath bestowed on us, and let these be substituted for the Paraphrases which we seldom use in our worship. One thing must be carefully borne in mind is such a selection, and that is, that all songs designed for the worship of God should derive their inspiration from the Word of God.

A PRESBYTERIAN MANUAL.

Do not imagine, kind reader, that we purpose to write a Manual of the Presbyterian doctrine and polity at the present time. This would be too great a burden for our little Magazine to bear, as well as quite too much for our Constituents to peruse. It may be well, however, to point out what literature we possess in this department, and how a want might be supplied for our own Church in Canada. We see by a memorial presented to the Presbytery of London in the Church of England, by the young men of that Church, that the want of such a work is generally felt there. Other Churches have their Manuals, and why should not we have something of the kind? Mr. James, the distinguished