

possessed a mind of great grasp and power, which eminently fitted him to fill the chair of professor in the theological academy. He is also widely known as an author. He prepared a selection of hymns to replace the inferior *Tabernacle selection*. Several of the hymns are by Dr. Wardlaw, and are of real excellence, and all who desire that hymns should be confined to the utterance of praise, will be abundantly satisfied with his contributions.

"Christ of all my hopes the ground."

WARING, Anna Letitia. The talented author of "*Hymns and Meditations*" wishes only to be known as A. L. Waring; but, while shrinking from making herself known to the world, many who have been benefitted by her beautiful spiritual hymns, know more of her through them than they do of some others whose life story has been written. Christians will feel that what she describes in her hymns they experience in their best hours, and that it will be so with them more and more as they are the more fully crucified with Christ.

"Father, I know that all my life."

WATTS, Rev. Isaac, D.D. Was born in 1674, the son of a respectable school-master at Southampton. Dr. Watts' parents were eminently pious, and suffered much in the persecuting times of Charles II.; the father having been imprisoned more than once for his nonconformity. In a memorandum by Dr. Watts at this time, there occurs this note: "1683, my father persecuted and imprisoned for nonconformity six months, after that, forced to leave his family and live privately for two years." The boy grew up, and in his 18th year startled the grave deacons of his father's church by declaring that the hymns they sang in church were sadly lacking in taste. "Give us something better, young man," was the reply. The young man did it, and the church was invited to close its evening service with a new hymn.

"Behold the glories of the Lamb,
Before His Father's throne;
Prepare new honours for His name,
And songs before unknown."

This was his first hymn, and to Watts must be assigned the praise of beginning in our language a class of hymns which has taken a justified hold on the Christian mind of the world. Watts' sole aim in composing his hymn was usefulness in public worship. William Wirt, Attorney General of the United States, says of Watts: "What a soul of celestial fire, and, at the same time, of confiding tenderness was that. How truly did he devote all the faculties of that soul to the contemplation of the glory of God and of the Saviour. He was indeed 'ever journeying home to God.'" Dr. Watts' Psalms and Hymns did much to preserve the Congregational spirit from the cold formalism which crept over the land, and have done good service in the Episcopal, Methodist, and other Churches, and in the high places of the Mission field. Colonel Goddard, that celebrated convert to Christ, says to Dr. Doddridge: "Well am I acquainted with Dr. Watts' Psalms and Hymns. How often by singing some of them, when by myself on horseback and elsewhere, has the evil spirit been made to fly away."