

which the assemblies of the pious may make melody unto the Lord, in strains which "angels might often delight to hear." No others are to be named with these sweet singers of the spiritual Israel; and it is probable that, through the medium of their verse chiefly, will the devotions of our churches be poured forth till time shall be no more. No other poets ever attained such elevation as this. They honoured God in their gifts, and God has thus honoured them to be the mouth of his people to him, in their solemn assemblies, in their private devotions, and in the struggles of death itself.

"It would be an unpardonable task to compare the merits of these two great psalmists. Each had excellencies not found in the other. Watts, however, excels Mr. Charles Wesley, only in the sweeter flow of his numbers, and in the feeling and sympathy of those of his hymns which are designed to administer comfort to the afflicted. In composition, he was, in all respects, decidedly his inferior,—in good taste, classic elegance, uniformity of excellence, correct rhyming and vigour. As to the theology of their hymns respectively, leaving particular doctrines out of the question, the great truths of religious experience are also far more clearly and forcibly embodied by Mr. Charles Wesley than by Dr. Watts. Most justly does his brother say of them in his Preface to the 'Collection of Hymns for the use of the People called Methodists,' of which, only a few are his own, and almost all the rest from the pen of Mr. Charles Wesley.—'In these hymns there is no doggerel, no botches, nothing put in to patch up the rhyme, no feeble expletives. Here is nothing turgid or bombastic, on the one hand, or low and creeping on the other. Here are no cant expressions, no words without meaning. Here are (allow me to say) both the purity, the strength and the elegance of the English language; and, at the same time, the utmost simplicity and plainness, suited to every capacity.'

"Few persons ever wrote so much poetry of the sacred and devotional kind, as Mr. Charles Wesley. It amounts to forty-eight distinct publications of different sizes, from the duodecimo volume, to the pamphlet of one or two sheets. Beside what is published, several thick quarto volumes of poetry in MS. remain, chiefly consisting of brief illustrations or paraphrases of the leading texts in the Gospels, and Acts of the Apostles, and not inferior to his 'Short Hymns on the chief passages of the Old and New Testaments,' which have passed through several editions. A few of his poems are playful, a few others are keenly satirical.

"But by far the greater part of his poetry was consecrated to promote the work of God in the heart. Never were its different branches, from the first awakening of the soul out of the sleep of sin, to its state of perfected holiness, with all its intermediate conflicts and exercises, more justly or scripturally expressed; and there is, perhaps, no uninspired book from which, as to 'the deep things of God,' so much is to be learned, as from his hymn book in use in the Methodist Congregations. Above 60,000 copies of this work are sold yearly in the United Kingdom."