

hymnists from "Apollo's roll." Nor could we consent to such an exclusion; for if Charles Wesley is not a true poet, then Parnassus is as thinly peopled as Paradise was, or as the island-home of Robinson Crusoe. No:

"He felt the tuneful Nine his breast inspire
And, like a master, waked the soothing lyre."

"A true poet," observes Carlyle, "is a man in whose heart resides some effluence of wisdom, some tone of the eternal melodies." Tried by this test, our minstrel will be found to be a true child of Parnassus. He possesses in a high degree the *genie createur*—the spirit of poetry, as Racine calls it, and the *vivida vis animi*—the poetic temperament. His hymns are no mere nursery rhymes. They are as splendid in poetry as they are fervent in devotion. His was a muse of the strongest pinion, that could soar in the loftiest flights of song. In some of his moods he emulates "the lyre of Hebrew bards." Few of our English poets equal him. John Wesley, no mean critic, remarks of his brother: "He is not only superior in learning but in poetry to Mr. Thomson and all his theatrical writers put together. None of them can equal him either in strong, nervous sense, or in purity and elegance of language." Had he chosen to enter the lists against our secular poets, attempting profane instead of sacred subjects, "he would have rivalled," says a high authority, "Dryden himself whom he greatly resembles in fluency, copiousness and power."

And his poetic genius has had some gleams of recognition. Every one is familiar with Dr. Watts' high and generous estimate of our minstrel's "Wrestling Jacob," of which he says it is worth all the poetry he himself had ever written. Alluding to Dr. Watts' opinion just cited, John Wesley once exclaimed, "O what would Dr. Watts have said if he had seen my brother's two exquisite hymns beginning:

"How happy every child of grace,"
and,

"Come, let us join our friends above."

And on another occasion, after repeating this latter hymn, he said: "There have been different views concerning the merits of