

A new version of the psalms, giving a greater variety of metres, would be of immense service to the Church. We are saying nothing against the majesty of the Hebrew psalms when we state that the metre of Rous's version is often very clumsy, and that the lack of variety in the metres is a great defect, especially with the variety of tunes we have at the present day. The version used by the United Presbyterian Church in the States has many advantages over ours in this respect, and what we need for the psalms is a revision in the line of that version.

Then, too, if the tunes were selected and set to the psalms, with the music printed, after the manner of the Hymnal, there would be much advantage, especially for leaders and choirs. We have been doing a great deal in this way for the music of our Hymnal, but nothing for the music of our psalmody. No sound Presbyterian wishes to discard the psalms, yet we are told that there is danger of their falling into disuse. If we would retain the psalms in their place of well-deserved honor in our Church Song, something should be done in order that they may even have fair play in the struggle for existence. In our opinion the sooner a special committee is appointed to consider the question of our psalmody, with the view of securing a new version of the psalms, with a greater variety of metre, and at the same time setting tunes to these psalms, as has been done for the hymns, the better it will be for the service of praise. What is needed more than anything else in connection with our Church Song is the revision of our psalmody and tunes. We profess to honor the psalms as they deserve; then let us treat them in a manner worthy of that honor. Surely the Presbyterian Church in Canada will never become a mere hymn-singing church.