

LITERARY NOTICES.

CASE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES; OR, THE CANADIAN FISHERMAN'S MEMORIAL. By Rev. John Carroll. 4 vols., 12mo. Price \$3.90. Usual discount to ministers. Published at the Wesleyan Book Room.

The reputation of this Biographical History of Canadian Methodism is so well established that no words of ours are needed to recommend it to the members of the General Conference. Bro. Carroll has recently added another volume, bringing the narrative down to late dates. All who have the former volumes will be anxious to secure the last. And those who have them not can never understand the spirit of the heroic age of Methodism in this land till they have read them. Bro. Carroll has laid the Church under great obligation by his preparation of these volumes. The Church should show its appreciation of his services by the extensive purchase of his books. We heartily concur in the following

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"Mr. Carroll has performed a valuable service. Around the Rev. William Case, as the principal figure, he has grouped a large body of the founders and leaders of Canadian Methodism."—Methodist Quarterly.

"Mr. Carroll wields a ready pen, and his style is popular and pleasing. 'Case and his Contemporaries' are the common property of Methodism."—Canada Christian Advocate.

"Mr. Carroll's style is chaste and racy, and exceedingly natural, and he will not lack a host of readers."—Colony World.

"It is neatly got up as to its typography and binding. We anticipate for the work an extensive circulation."—Hastings Chronicle.

"We take pleasure in ranking the author among our choice friends. The book merits an extensive sale."—Guide to Holiness.

"It gives a very graphic, interesting, and entertaining account of the origin and early history of the Methodist Church in Canada. The typography and the binding are creditable, and the style is Mr. Carroll's—easy, racy, lively and graphic."—Waterloo Chronicle.

"Our esteemed Brother Carroll appears to have an especial fitness for the work he has chosen. His delineations of character are of photographic vividness and fidelity. It is fitting to lay a wreath on the graves of those who have fallen on the field, and to twine a garland for the silvery locks of those who are left behind."—Recorder.

ND-BOOK OF CANADIAN METHODISM. By Rev. Geo. H. Cornish. Published at the Wesleyan Book Room.

The Book-Steward is desirous of calling special attention to this valuable work, a copy of which ought to find its way into every Methodist family. The author has done good service to Canadian Methodism in giving to the church this volume, and we hesitate not to say that this first edition ought to find a ready sale. No such work has ever before been published either in England or America. It has only to be seen to be prized. It gives valuable information in reference to every Minister, and every Circuit and Mission, connected with Canada Wesleyan Methodism, from its commencement in 1790 to the Conference of 1867. Members of the Conference, both clerical and lay, who have not a copy in their possession should lose no time in securing one. Price, one dollar.

Correspondence.

For the Daily Recorder.

REVISION OF THE HYMN BOOK.

Is it desirable? The question of our future supply is one we are obliged to consider, and it lies between these points. Shall we print the old edition, adopt the revised Hymn Book of our English brethren, or publish one suited to our Canadian peculiarities. The idea of one Hymn Book for all the various sections of the Methodist family, is a pleasing thought, but quite impracticable at present; and our decisions must be made on one or other of those points, and principally the choice will lie between the first and the last. As I suppose we should hardly be willing to adopt as ours, a Hymn Book that is yet unpublished, and that may be better (or it may be worse) than the old one, for all changes are not improvements, so publishing for ourselves, or buying up the old Hymn Book from England is the question before us. And probably publishing one for ourselves in the course of a few years, is the main question.

With the old Hymn Book a great deal of fault is found, because it contains a number of hymns not generally used; many of which are said to be unsuitable to the times and tastes of the present, that it is absurd to suppose that all true poetry was centered in the Wesleyan age, and that native talent should be encouraged. With a large portion of what is written on these heads, I have no sympathy whatever. To foster native talent is a good thing. But to cast away the old Classics for the slightest foibles of much that this age produces, would be most disastrous.

But the question is one of the first importance, as the power of song is one of the highest that exercises its influence on the human mind; and this sentiment, which was once uttered, "Let me make the songs of a people, and I care not who makes the laws," carried into the region of Theology, will touch all that is vital in church organization. The hymns of Methodism are its ritual and its commentary, in which are embodied its divinity and style of worship; and as long as what may be termed the Doctrinal Hymns exist, the Theology of the Methodist Church will remain what it is. Now, for instance, could the doctrine of a limited atonement ever gain any footing in a congregation that was constantly singing—

The world he suffered to remain;  
For all he built the atonement made;  
For those that will not come to him,  
The ransom of his life was paid.

Or,  
Lord, I believe were sinners more  
Than sands upon the ocean shore;  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,  
For all a full atonement made.

And while so much of gospel truth is presented in so small a compass, as Charles Wesley has embodied in some of those grand old hymns, to emasculate them by modern trimmings, and fancied refinements, is very much like ungratefully casting away the grand heritage left us by the Spirit of God in our fathers.

There is one argument for change, of which I have a very small opinion, viz. that there are hymns so seldom sung that they are practically useless, and they ought therefore to go out of the book. But before those unsung hymns, are thus summarily condemned; it would be pertinent to enquire why they are not sung; is it because the doctrine or sentiment is out of harmony with the book of revelation, or the work of the Spirit in the human soul. Or is the true spirit of poetry wanting; if not these, what then?

T. W. CONSTABLE.

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