

which we cannot speak too highly. Indeed many works of this kind for the use of ministers and members of the church have been published of late years; showing clearly that the prejudice against read prayers is a thing of the past, and that our church has not been in too great haste in taking this subject into consideration.

It is somewhat difficult to describe our present position as a church as regards psalmody and hymnology deliberations. At present we have psalms, paraphrases and hymns—the last adopted about fifteen years ago. If matters are left as they are, there will be little dissatisfaction and much relief; for a vast majority of the people desire no interference with the psalter and the paraphrases. To break up the Psalter into portions is to take liberties with an inspired book, hallowed by the devotions of thousands of years. To scatter the Paraphrases is to interfere with the plan of the whole collection which is didactic and instructive. They begin with the Old Testament and the doctrines of natural religion and then, taking up the most significant parts of the New Testament, they describe the facts and the leading features of redemption. This is done in the choicest and most tasteful language—in strains that will never be forgotten; whatever men may do by way of breaking up and scattering these charming pieces. They follow the gradual unfolding of revelation given in scripture—the carrying on and completing of the work that was finished on the cross and at the opened sepulchre, the planting of the church and the teachings of the Apostles, and end with the new Jerusalem or the church in glory. They thus furnish a course of regular instruction which forms an admirable accompaniment to the rigorous logical formulas of the Shorter Catechism. They have been committed to memory for edifying purposes, especially in the period of youth by thousands of our people.

It is a mistake to suppose that we have made any advance since the Reformation in our provision for public worship. Of this evidence was furnished by means of an old Psalm-book shown to the Summer School by Mr. Robert Murray. Knox's Liturgy and the accompanying Psalter have often been reprinted. But here we have before us a veritable copy, dating from the year 1635; which had been in the hands of some worshipper two