

toys for girls or boys, as the case may be ; another mittens or stockings, fruit, or vegetables or groceries, and so on. As much of the supply as possible is brought to the School on the Sabbath before Christmas, and a special service is held as each class brings its gifts to the platform. The baskets are finally packed and distributed on the day before Christmas ; and who shall say that the dear season is not more joyful to our own children, because they have thus helped to lighten the burdens of some of Christ's poor ?

St. David's Church, St. John, N.B.

A Fourfold Portrait

By Rev. Professor James W. Falconer, B.D.

IV. JOHN

John begins by telling whence Jesus came ; for, in the first few verses of his Gospel, called the Prologue, he says that Jesus, whom he calls "The Word" was One with the Father and dwelt with Him. At a certain moment in history, Jesus became a Man : "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." The glory of this wonderful birth fills John's mind, and all through his book, even in the account of Christ's death, we are made to feel this same glory of the Saviour.

He tells us what led him to write a Gospel. He did not wish to write a complete life of Jesus, nor did he desire his Gospel to take the place of the other three. He takes it for granted that his readers are acquainted with Matthew, Mark and Luke ; and he selects only a few incidents and a few great addresses, that he may accomplish his object. This object is described in ch. 20 : 31, and is nothing less than the desire to prove that Jesus is the Son of God. "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ; and that believing ye might have life through His name."

John loved Jesus with all his heart, he had thought deeply on His teaching, and had found how sweet was the stream of truth and peace that flowed from the Saviour's life. He therefore longed that all others might receive the same blessing.

He hopes to persuade others to believe in

Jesus, by telling how those who met Him came to accept Him as the Lord. John the Baptist, that stern desert preacher, the guileless Nathanael, the timid Nicodemus, the fickle woman of Samaria, and many others who were drawn, by the wondrous glory of Jesus, to confess that He is both Lord and God,—these are John's witnesses to prove that Jesus is the Son of God.

The Fourth Gospel is an old man's writing : for John was well advanced in years when he decided to put upon paper what he remembered of the words and works of Jesus.

Few books have been so much loved as this Gospel. The writer was acquainted with the deep secrets of God and lived so near the Saviour, that his writing has remained for over eighteen hundred years the solace and joy of countless believing souls, and an un-failing spring of spiritual truth.

Presbyterian College, Halifax, N.S.

A Canadian Hymn

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

To seize upon the title of a popular book of travel as the key-note of a hymn, was a stroke of genius. The book was Principal Grant's, *From Ocean to Ocean*, an account of a journey made in connection with the finding of a pathway across the mountains for the projected Canadian Pacific Railway. The hymn writer was Dr. Robert Murray, of the Presbyterian Witness, Halifax. The hymn is,

"From ocean unto ocean

Our land shall own Thee Lord,"

No. 504 in our Book of Praise, in which collection it was first published. It is included in the recently issued Book of Common Praise of the Church of England in Canada ; and it is likely to be found in future in all the hymn-books of the Canadian churches.

It is a Canadian Home Missionary and patriotic hymn, and ranks, for its clear, strong, uplifting appeal, with Bishop Heber's world-known, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" :

"From ocean unto ocean

Our land shall own Thee Lord :

And, filled with true devotion,

Obey Thy sovereign word."