

SACRED POETRY.

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# Sacred Poetry.

SELECTED FROM THE WORKS OF

THE REV. CHARLES WESLEY, M.A.,

Of Christ Church, Oxford, and Presbyter of the  
Church of England

EDITED BY

A LAY MEMBER OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

These abilities are the inspired gift of God, rarely bestowed; and are of power to allay the perturbations of the mind, and set the affections in right tune; to celebrate in glorious and lofty hymns the throne and equipage of God's almightiness, and what he works, and what he suffers to be wrought, with high providence in his Church. MILTON.



NEW-YORK

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF  
EVANGELICAL KNOWLEDGE,  
3 BIBLE HOUSE, FOURTH AVENUE.

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## RECORDED JUDGMENTS.

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"It may be affirmed that there is no principal element of Christianity, no main article of belief, as professed by Protestant Churches; that there is no moral or ethical sentiment, peculiarly characteristic of the Gospel—that does not find itself emphatically and pointedly and clearly conveyed in some stanza of Charles Wesley's poetry." ISAAC TAYLOR.

"Full of inspiration, this sweet singer translated into the language of earth snatches of orisons unutterable, till his plastic felicity embodied them in immortal verse." JAMES HAMILTON, D.D.

"Perhaps no poems have ever been so devoutly committed to memory as these, nor so often quoted on a death-bed." SOUTHEY.

"This fervent lyrist and liturgist was perhaps the most gifted minstrel of the modern Church; none since the Psalmist has embodied in strains so genuine the religious exercises of the soul." LONDON QUARTERLY.

"Christian experience furnishes him with everlasting and inexhaustible themes; and it must be confessed that he has celebrated them with an affluence of diction and a splendor of coloring rarely surpassed." JAMES MONTGOMERY.

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"'Twere new indeed to see a bard all fire  
 Touch'd with a coal from heaven, assume the lyre,  
 And tell the world still kindling as he sung,  
 With more than mortal music on his tongue,  
 That He who died below and reigns above,  
 Inspires the song, and that his name is Love."

COWPER.

"A comparison of the poetry of Doddridge, Watts, Kenn, and Wesley, would show that Doddridge rises above Watts from having caught the spirit of Kenn; and Wesley is deep and interior from having added to the Chrysostomian piety of Kenn the experimental part of St. Augustine. Watts is a pure Calvinist, Kenn is a pure Chrysostomian. Doddridge is induced to blend both, and the effect is valuable and interesting. Wesley advances this union. He too adds the views of grace to those of advanced holiness; but having derived the former from a more unadulterating medium, he is uniformly practical and experimental.

"I know no equal specimen of pure primitive piety, or rather Scriptural united piety, than this poetry; and for clear views and expressions of the true evangelic religion, I know but one human parallel—the matchless liturgy of the Church of England.

ALEXANDER KNOX.

## P R E F A C E .

THE recorded judgments upon the preceding pages, of authorities eminent in the walks of literature and religion, and the introduction which follows, dispense with the necessity of an extended preface.

Many persons of excellent taste and unaffected piety have expressed a desire to possess a wider range of this poetry than can be found in any one collection; and the editor, to meet this requirement, has made selections from the author's various works, and brought them within the limits of this volume.

NEW-YORK, *September*, 1864.