HYMNS FROM THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY, FOR EACH SUNDAY AND THE FESTIVALS OF OUR LORD

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Trieste

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FOR

Each Sunday and the Festivals of our Lord.

BY THE

REV. J. E. BODE, M.A.,

RECTOR OF WESTWELL, OXON.; AUTHOR OF BALLADS FROM HERODOTUS, BAMPTON LECTURES, ETC.

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Preface.

THE following Hymns were written for the purpose of being sung in my own Parish Church. I began them from feeling a want of a closer and more direct connection between the singing and the rest of the worship; and I chose the Gospel as my subject, on account of its importance, its brevity, and its position in the Service.

My wish in publishing them would be that they should be used in other Churches where the same want has been felt, either alone, (where metrical psalms or anthems are chiefly used,) or in conjunction with one of the many cheap Hymn-books now in use. I did not, however, feel in a position to publish them at once in a form suited for general use, and have therefore adopted the more hazardous process of ventilating them as a literary composition. Possibly to those who are fond of

sacred poetry of a simple and Scriptural character, they may not be unacceptable. But it was as Hymns that they were written, and it is as Hymns that I wish them to be regarded. The metres were varied with a view to suiting some of the most popular tunes in general use; and some of the Hymns were written to particular tunes. It will be obvious that from their character some are suitable for other days than those to which they especially belong; particularly for those days when the passage which forms the basis of the Hymn is the Second Lesson of the day.

I have added a second hymn for Christmas Day, Easter Day, Ascension Day, and the Sunday after, Whitsunday, and Trinity Sunday, owing to my having in the first instance used the word 'Gospel' on these days, in a more general acceptation, for the 'good tidings' of the day. The Hymns which now stand first for the first three of these days may seem more suited to a second service, when the glow of a commemoration has given place to a more subdued and meditative feeling.

In the Hymn for the Tenth Sunday after

Trinity there is a certain resemblance to the poem for the same Sunday in the "Christian Year." That there was no intentional plagiarism I am quite sure; but it is very possible that an unconscious recollection of this poem may have influenced me in the choice of the metre, and perhaps in the *form*, of my Hymn. The more obvious resemblance in the third stanza was inseparable from the attempt to introduce the words of our Lord in that metre, though it was the rhythm of this stanza which led me to look at the "Christian Year," to see whether there was sufficient resemblance to exclude the Hymn. Having said this, I may be allowed to add that I hope the limitation of my subject to the Gospel of the day, and the fact of these Hymns being written for the express purpose of being sung, will save me from the disadvantage of any comparison being instituted between this humbler effort of mine and that delightful work.

WESTWELL RECTORY,
Oct. 24, 1859.

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