

G. W. Linton, assures us that, "unlike most works of this kind, this is free from secular music and hymns of a religious bias." It would strike us, then, as the very book to be thrown out. The author is not quite as good as his promise, for he prints "Just as I am, without one Plea," which is very distinctly a religious hymn. On the whole, however, he is as good as his word. Apart from religious considerations, we should like to inquire what his notions of childhood are, that he expects children in a Sunday-school to sing:

"I am weary, I am weary of the cares and toils of life;
I am weary of its sorrows, I am weary of its strife;
I am weary of its flowers, that bloom so soon to die;
And the immortal spirit pineth for its home beyond the sky."

As to the music, the author should know whether it is secular or not, for he has composed the greater part of it himself.——We name together as good books of their kind *The Wells of Salvation Songs for the Sabbath-school*, by John R. Sweney and Wm. J. Kirkpatrick (Philadelphia: John J. Hood); *Bright Gems for Sabbath-schools, Prayer-meetings, Services of Song*, etc., by S. B. Ellenberger (York, Pa.: Grider & Brother); and, similar but better, *Heart and Voice in the Sunday-school*, by W. F. Sherwin, assisted by Dr. Geo. F. Root and Jas. R. Murray (Cincinnati: John Church & Co.). In all these books we find good tunes and hymns and a serious evangelical purpose. They draw too much on contemporaneous and not very good composers. *Bright Gems* publishes too much from Mr. Ellenberger. Mr. W. F. Sherwin's *Heart and Voice* is done better than the others. It has reaped a benefit from the worthy and competent assistance of Geo. F. Root and contains some excellent tunes composed by him, as well as from other sources. The method in all is the same and is faulty. This is not the way to put the Gospel into song. The song is not what it should be and the Gospel is diluted and strained through too many other interests than the right one. Mr. Hutchins's method (see our leader, above) is essentially different both as to hymn and tune, and, of course, produces a radically different result.——*The Beacon Light*, by J. H. Tenney and E. A. Hoffman (Ditson & Co.) is musically on no essentially different plane from those named above. It is pure and dignified and sails as close to the strait lines of defined and historic Christianity as any editor can who has a mixed public in view.——*Welcome Songs for Sabbath-schools* (Chicago: Fleming H. Revell) is on much the same plane as Mr. Sherwin's "Heart and Voice," only there is less of it, as the compilation contains only fifty-seven selections.——*Unity Hymns and Chorals for the Congregation and the Home*, edited by W. C. Gannett, I. V. Blake, and F. L. Hosmer (published by "Unity," 75 Madison Street, Chicago), is, as for brevity, a model compilation. The tunes are selected from the old standard repertoires and arranged on cut pages, so that about sixty-six tunes are enough for the two hundred and fifty hymns of the book. The hymns are pretty freely altered from the originals, to bring them to the standard or average "unity" of the volume. The collection leaves too many chords of faith untouched to be widely used and, with all its faultless editing, is so shorn of the grand features of Christian hymnology as to be "splendidly null."

.... *Beauties of Sacred Song. A Collection of the Very Best Compositions by the Best Masters* (Ditson & Co.) is a quarto published in the familiar style of the Messrs. Ditson & Co. of some fifty-eight well-known selections of sacred music and is arranged for home or choir use.——*Hymn Service No. 3*, for the Sunday-school, is composed, compiled, and arranged by Rev. Robert Lowry and W. Howard Doane, embracing hymns and songs, new and old, appropriate to the International Lessons for 1882. (Biglow & Main.) The word *old*, as we copy it from the title-page, does not mean classic nor imply any standard character in the tunes of this book, which are neither above nor below the ordinary Sunday-school song-book.——*Silvery Echoes of Praise and Prayer* falls very much in the same general class as the preceding, with this difference, that a large number of the tunes are composed by the editor, Mr. J. H. Kurzenkuabe, and is designed for children and youths in the primary and intermediate departments.——*The Song Treasury* belongs in the same series and comes from the same editor. Both are also published by the Messrs. Grider & Brother, of York, Pa. The *Song Treasury* contains a complete course of elementary instruction in vocal music and is designed for the miscellaneous needs of church, Sunday-school, and home. It is edited fairly; has too many of the author's compositions and too much contemporary composition generally. It is evangelical; but follows a wrong method, does not know how to shake off the sentimental languor, nor how to get a pure, vigorous, and healthy gospel into song.——In the preface of *Twilight Zephyrs*, a new collection of hymns and tunes for Sunday-schools, missionary meetings, anniversaries, temperance meetings, and the social circle (St. Louis: John Burns), the editor