

❖ PREFACE ❖

The title page to this book of sacred song, heralds the contents of the coming volume. The contributions are from a number of the sweetest hymn and song writers, and out of the heart moved by a divine impulse whose thoughts have poured forth into harmonious and melodious combinations. There are no "*machine bees*" among them. Each piece is as though the bees of heaven had come all the way over the river to make honey in the author's heart.

No pains have been spared to make the book as complete as possible. Many of the hymns and tunes have never before appeared in print. We read in 1st Samuel, chap. 14, verse 27, that Jonathan put forth the end of his rod and dipped it in a honey-comb and put his hand to his mouth. In imitation of this example the editors have tested each piece of music before accepting it. The judgment of the best critics has been obtained on each hymn and tune. The closest scrutiny has been observed, so as to prevent the least *bee-bread* from passing through the sieve and give only the honey.

Prof. W. S. Nickle has had large experience in singing, and is alive to the taking qualities of a hymn or tune.

Rev. John B. Shaw is both by taste and education a musical man, and having spent many years in Evangelistic work, is a pronounced success in his judgment of such hymns and tunes as are proper for the service for which this book is intended.

It is our earnest prayer that thousands may be edified, happified, and helped forward to heaven through the inspiration of these songs.

F. A. HARDIN.