

Underwood, H.G. "Preface." In *han'gukch'ansonggagaegwan* [Overview of Korean Hymns], edited by sŏjŏngmin, page 99. N.P: han'gukkyohoesamunhŏnyŏn'guwŏn, 1991.

PREFACE

The very birth of a Christian Church demands a hymnology. Joyful praise and happy songs are characteristic of the religion of Christ and peculiarly characteristic in that they belong to no other religion.

The very birth, then, of the Christian Church in Korea gave rise to a demand for *Hymns of Praise* and sacred songs.

This demand was at first met by translations that were copied by hand but as the number of members grew this process was too primitive and the hymns were copied on large scrolls so that all in the room could use the one copy that was before them. The demand for a book of hymns was first met by a book published by the Rev. G. HEBER JONES about two years ago. It contained about all the hymns then in use, some thirty in all, but it gave the words only.

A larger work was in progress under the direction of the Rev. G. HERBER JONES, appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Church for this purpose, and the Rev. S. A. MOFFETT of the Presbyterian Mission, and fifty hymns had been collected. These were all the hymns then in use in both Missions and about half of them had been translated by myself before my return to America.

This work was handed to me and in the absence of Mr. JONES was used in this compilation.

In the present volume all the older hymns have been gathered together, many more have been translated and added, and they have been arranged with the music. An attempt has been made to make the accent come on the more important words and in some cases it has been necessary to slightly modify the music.

In the editing, my own translations have undergone a thorough revision and such changes as seemed necessary for the accentuation or for a clearer apprehension of the sense have been made in the work of others but these latter only at the suggestion or concurrence of several scholarly native Christians.

Koreans allow of contractions in speaking that cannot be expressed in writing and hence 그리스 + ㅇ* will be pronounced as one syllable and in like manner all syllables bound together by a ㅇ*.

The hymns are translations, for the most part, of English hymns but we are glad to be able to incorporate a number that are the compositions of native Christians. It is to be hoped

that as our hymns increase in number that these will be, more than proportionately, more numerous.

Thanks are especially due to Rev. D. A. BUNKER lately of the Royal Korean college who has adapted the music where adaptation was necessary, has most kindly corrected the proof of the music and has assisted in many other ways.

Matters have been so arranged that from time to time additions can be made, and hymns that may be translated will be thankfully received.

Imperfections and errors must necessarily creep into a book of this kind and criticisms and suggestions will be welcomed.

Trusting that the book will be of use in increasing and aiding the spirit of Praise in the Korean Church, with the prayer that God may add His blessing to these feeble efforts, this book of *Hymns of Praise* is now offered.

Seoul, Korea. Sept. 1893

H. G. U.

*,** Differs slightly from the original text.