

**Sir Richard Runciman Terry (d. 1938) was
an English organist, choir director and
musicologist.**

tyro. The little attention given to congregational singing amongst us has not been on account of any prohibition or discountenance of the practice, but is simply and solely due to the disinclination of congregations themselves to sing. If the writer may be permitted to express an opinion, he does not think it desirable that the people should sing in the Mass where a really good choir is in existence, but in small country churches he firmly believes that it would be a wise plan to abandon the scratch choirs which vainly struggle with music beyond their powers, and to teach the congregation to sing the Mass and other offices either to simple Plain Chant or simple unison music. In several churches known to him this practice has been carried out for years with most satisfactory results, and it is eminently desirable that it should become more general. One great difficulty in the way of making our hymn singing as popular as it is with Anglicans, and impressive as it is with German Catholics, is the tenacity with which the older members of our congregations cling to some half-dozen tunes of such a fatuous type as “Daily, Daily,” “O Mother, I,” and the rest of the terrible contents of “The Crown of Jesus music.”

If our Hymnology is to be improved it must be by educating the taste of the younger generation, and not by doing violence to the prejudices of the elder, however mistaken we may think them to be.