

First Published in 1940, the same year the “Blitz” began. (During World War II, Nazi airplanes kept up a constant bombing campaign against England.)

mistake. Much of the beauty of the older forms was lost and the hymns did not really become classical. We have reason to hope that the present reform of the breviary will also give us back the old form of the hymns. But meanwhile it seems necessary to keep the later text. This is the one best known, it is given in all hymn-books and is still the only authorized form. Only in one case have we printed the older text of a hymn, number 57, ‘Vrbs Ierusalem.’ The modern form of this begins: ‘Cælestis urbs Ierusalem.’ But in this case the people who changed it in the seventeenth century did not even keep its metre; so the later version cannot be sung to the old, exceedingly beautiful tune. Other hymns and chants in this book are taken from approved sources. As this is not a book in which to study the history of Latin hymns, I have given only a slight indication of their origin. Their history may be read in Daniel: ‘Thesaurus Hymnologicus’ (Leipzig, 1855), or, better still, in Dreves: ‘Analecta Hymnica’ (ib. 1886).

Several of the hymns here printed are not complete. That is the case in the breviary hymns too. Many breviary hymns are really only fragments of very long compositions. It would