

In the days when the Metrical Psalter was more generally in use, a faux pas on the part of the minister conducting an induction service of a new minister led to the singing of Psalm 64, verses 1 - 5 instead of Psalm 65, verses 1 - 4. Without the batting of a single eyelid, the congregation solemnly ploughed their way through these lines which perhaps sum up what most ministers feel at some time, but, one hopes, not right at the start of a fresh ministry:

When I to thee my prayer make,
 Lord, to my voice give ear;
 My life save from the enemy,
 of whom I stand in fear.

 Me from their secret counsel hide
 who do live wickedly;
 From insurrection of those men
 that work iniquity:
 Who do their tongues with malice whet,
 and make them cut like swords;
 In whose bent bows are arrows set,
 ev'n sharp and bitter words:

 That they may at the perfect man
 in secret aim their shot;
 Yea, suddenly they dare at him
 to shoot, and fear it not.

 In ill encourage they themselves,
 and their snares close do lay:
 Together conference they have;
 who shall them see ? they say.

What a poker-faced lot our readers are ! The Editor's appeal for humorous anecdotes has met with a nil response. Does nothing funny - and repeatable - ever happen to, or come to the notice of, the membership of the Church Service Society ? Surely 'NOW CAP THIS!' could become a long-running feature of 'The Record' , if.....