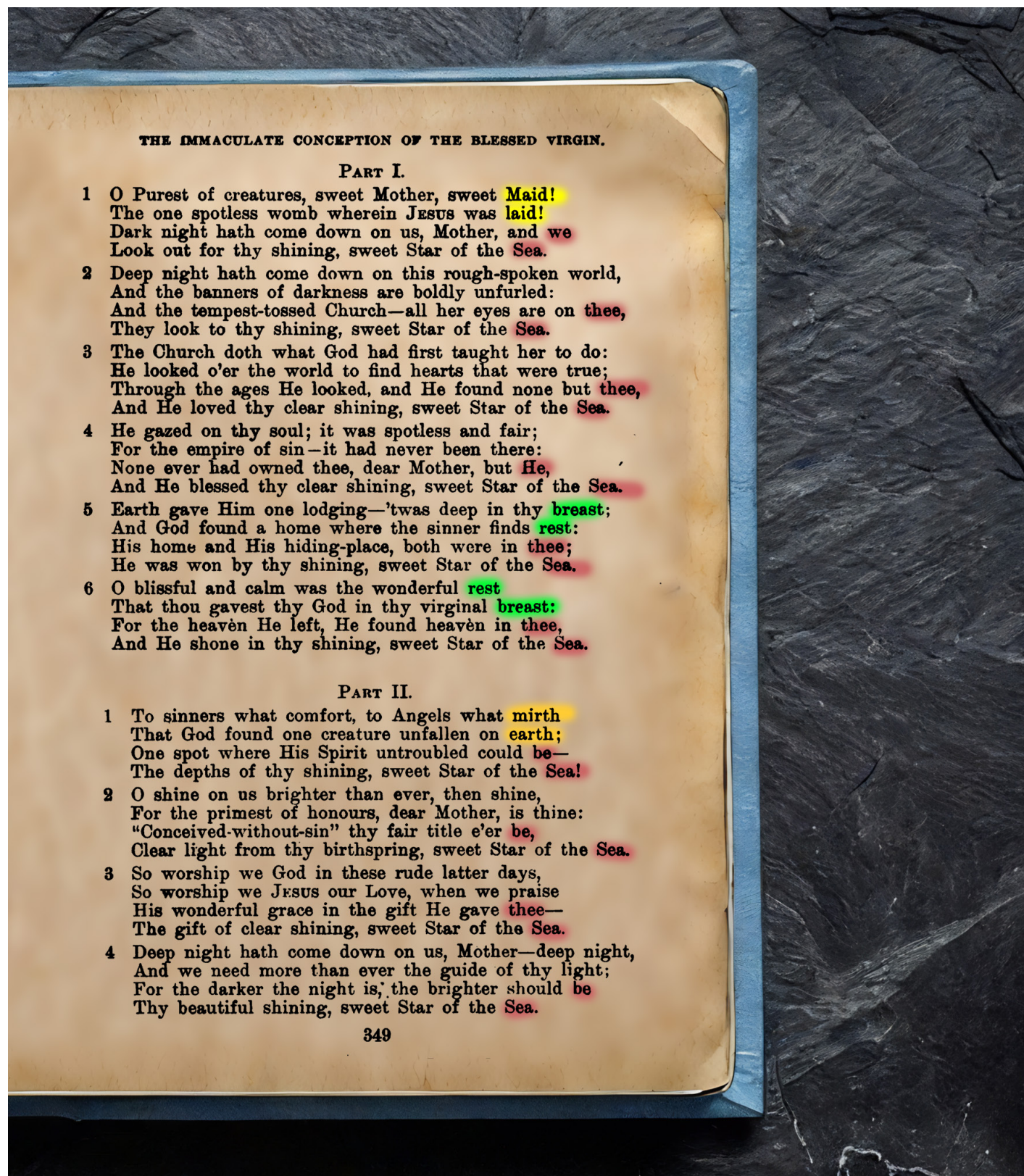


Not everything found in an old book is praiseworthy. The following—from Dom Ould’s Hymnal—offend by ABR (“Abuse By Reuse”), and how utterly predictable they are:



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

PART I.

- 1 O Purest of creatures, sweet Mother, sweet Maid!
The one spotless womb wherein JESUS was laid!
Dark night hath come down on us, Mother, and we
Look out for thy shining, sweet Star of the Sea.
- 2 Deep night hath come down on this rough-spoken world,
And the banners of darkness are boldly unfurled:
And the tempest-tossed Church—all her eyes are on thee,
They look to thy shining, sweet Star of the Sea.
- 3 The Church doth what God had first taught her to do:
He looked o'er the world to find hearts that were true;
Through the ages He looked, and He found none but thee,
And He loved thy clear shining, sweet Star of the Sea.
- 4 He gazed on thy soul; it was spotless and fair;
For the empire of sin—it had never been there:
None ever had owned thee, dear Mother, but He,
And He blessed thy clear shining, sweet Star of the Sea.
- 5 Earth gave Him one lodging—'twas deep in thy breast;
And God found a home where the sinner finds rest:
His home and His hiding-place, both were in thee;
He was won by thy shining, sweet Star of the Sea.
- 6 O blissful and calm was the wonderful rest
That thou gavest thy God in thy virginal breast:
For the heavèn He left, He found heavèn in thee,
And He shone in thy shining, sweet Star of the Sea.

PART II.

- 1 To sinners what comfort, to Angels what mirth
That God found one creature unfallen on earth;
One spot where His Spirit untroubled could be—
The depths of thy shining, sweet Star of the Sea!
- 2 O shine on us brighter than ever, then shine,
For the primest of honours, dear Mother, is thine:
"Conceived-without-sin" thy fair title e'er be,
Clear light from thy birthspring, sweet Star of the Sea.
- 3 So worship we God in these rude latter days,
So worship we JESUS our Love, when we praise
His wonderful grace in the gift He gave thee—
The gift of clear shining, sweet Star of the Sea.
- 4 Deep night hath come down on us, Mother—deep night,
And we need more than ever the guide of thy light;
For the darker the night is, the brighter should be
Thy beautiful shining, sweet Star of the Sea.

ITS EDITORS LEFT NO STONE unturned in their quest for the best versions of these ancient Catholic hymns, combing through centuries of English translations from the sixteenth century to the present day. In the process, they have revealed much little-known material, and some that is published in a hymnal for the first time. [They] navigate this difficult terrain with assurance; indeed, the editors’ explanation of the Urbanite reform and its impact on English translators is a model of clarity, and contains information this reviewer has not encountered elsewhere.