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Rawson, George

(1807–1889)

J. C. Hadden, revised by Leon Litvack

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Rawson, George (1807–1889), hymn writer, was born in Park Square, Leeds, on 5 June 1807 into a Congregationalist family. Educated at Clunie's School, Manchester, he was articled to a firm of Leeds solicitors, and ultimately practised for himself. Retiring from business, he went to Clifton, Bristol, where he attended Highbury Chapel. He died at Clifton on 25 March 1889.

Rawson was an active Congregationalist layman and hymn writer. His earliest verses appeared anonymously, under the signature of a Leeds Layman, because he refused to allow his name to be appended to his hymns. In 1853 he assisted the Congregationalist ministers of Leeds in compiling the *Leeds Hymn-Book*, to which he contributed six hymns. He wrote twenty-seven compositions for the *Psalms and Hymns for the Use of the Baptist Denomination* (1858). He also published two notable collections of his own verses: *Hymns, Verses and Chants* (1876) and *Songs of Spiritual Thought* (1885). His best-known hymns are 'By Christ redeemed', 'Father in high heaven dwelling', and 'We limit not the truth of God'.

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Archives

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