

was only a man-pleaser from dread of the correcting thong!

The reading which this hopeful stripling indulged in was mainly confined to the unstamped penny newspapers of the day, and to that trashiest portion of them, which advocated seditious and democratic doctrines. Like the majority of gossiping idlers, he cherished a feeling of envious malignity against all who occupied a higher step on the social ladder than himself.—Forgetting that it is the hand of the diligent that maketh rich, he looked with a jaundiced eye upon his wealthier neighbours, as if their prosperity had been attained at his expense; and his favourite declamatory topics were, the unequal distribution of money—the vices of the aristocracy—and the violence done to the “*sacred rights of man!*”

Though dismally ignorant, Growler had a certain fluency of language, which, amongst his equally shallow associates, passed current for wisdom. His leading ambition was to attend the sederunt of the *Radical Club*, meeting every Saturday night at the *Tom Paine's Head*, where he descanted to his admiring confrères, upon the “slavery” under which they groaned, and the “priest-craft” which rivetted the chains more closely upon their limbs. The oratorical exertions of Sampson were generally rewarded by the payment of his “score” by the company, who regarded him as a “village Hampden,” or rustic Joseph Hume!

In process of time, the period of the embryo Deacon's apprenticeship expired, much to the satisfaction of his master, who was an old-fashioned supporter of Church and State—and Mr. Growler commenced business on his own account. Having been left a legacy of some £80 by a distant relative, he opened shop in his native village, and, as he had calculated, obtained nine-tenths of the members of the “*Radical Club*,” as customers. The *patriotic* individuals were by no means sparing of their orders, so that the journeyman, and two apprentices, composing his operative establishment, had sufficient employment to keep them actively employed for a season.

So far as Mr. Growler was concerned, he had more important matters to mind than measuring the feet of the public, or cutting of leather. Old England, with its multiform sources of oppression, engrossingly occupied his attention, and parties who desired an interview with him always inquired, in the first instance, for their man, at the *Tom Paine's Head*. Seldom did he visit his shop except to transfer the contents of the *till* to his pocket; and, as his neighbours often remarked, it was more owing to good luck than to good guiding, that he contrived to make the two ends meet!

To speak the honest truth, had the foreman of Mr. Sampson (whom he often used to laugh to scorn, as a “poor, mean-spirited pet of the parson,”) not been a steady, anxious-minded, honest servant, he never could have kept afloat, even for six weeks.

As we shall see, however, in our next Chapter, the crash, which every sober observer saw was inevitable, fell upon the thoughtless and improvident tradesman before long.

[Original.]

[In the “Church Scholar's Notes,” the effort will be to supply an element left out in the otherwise useful Comments of the Tract Society, Barnes, &c. These common popular books are mostly expurgated of references to the Church founded by our Saviour and its distinctive teaching. As these are almost the only books in the department of Scripture-Exposition, accessible to even Church Sunday School Teachers, serious damage is done to the cause of the Church ‘In the house of its friends,’ and great ignorance on some very vital points is fostered.]

#### THE CHURCH SCHOLAR'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.

#### The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

##### CHAPTER I.

Ver. 1. *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ.*] The term “book” here means a “document” or “record.” The word “libel,” i. e. “little book,” is used in some courts of law to denote the paper containing a statement of the matter to be tried.—“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ” extends from the 1st to the 16th or 17th verse. It appears to be an extract from the genealogical registers which are