

The Young Churchman.

"Feed my Lambs."

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THE CHURCH SCHOLAR'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

CHAP. V.—CONTINUED.

Ver. 13. *Ye are the salt.*] The "ye" is very emphatic, and refers to the circle immediately around our Lord, who had professed themselves to be his adherents. These represented the Church or Association of men founded by our Lord, as its position for the most part has been in the ages all along—a band of men surrounded by a crowd. Yet the declaration is so addressed to them as that all may hear: this would encourage many among the outer assemblage to come in and join the Church—to come in and form one of that Body which was in every age to be as a mass of salt amidst the human race, keeping it from a complete perversion from God.—The "salt" referred to is rocksalt, dug out from mines in masses,—and not obtained by deposition from saline springs. This, after exposure to the weather, would become insipid and useless,—and would be no longer employed for its original purpose, but be broken up for the roads, or sprinkled as a coarse sand on pavements to keep persons from slipping upon them.—For more than eighteen hundred years, the true savour of "the salt" has not been lost out of the Body founded by our Lord. Often however has it been almost overwhelmed by other savours.—Our Lord delivered to the Church which he founded, a Faith,—i. e. certain institutions and certain doctrines and explanations with respect to them. These, after having been once deposited in the Church founded by him, were to be handed on to

future generations by faithful men. This intention has been with more or less completeness everywhere fulfilled.—The branch of the Association founded by our Lord—which exists in the British Empire—possesses in its public authorized formularies, by virtue of the purification which they underwent at the time of the Reformation, the true ancient savour of the Faith, in a higher degree than any of the other branches of that Association now existing. Each member of the British branch of the Church founded by our Lord—when that branch is thus so pre-eminently distinguished—ought to take especial care that he individually possess the true savour of the divinely-appointed salt, and give out its virtue around him.

Ver. 14. *Ye are the light.*] Emphasis should be laid on the "ye" in reading.—The light given out to the world by the Church founded by our Lord, has often been dimmed by human contrivances,—by admixtures in the pure divinely-prescribed oil by which alone the light has to be fed.—Of the Faith—the oil by which the light within the Church of our Lord is maintained—it may be said,—as the ancient law declared of the sacred anointing oil under the Mosaic dispensation—"Ye shall not make any other like it, after the composition of it; it is holy and shall be holy unto you." Exodus xxx. 32.

—*a city that is set on a hill*] The town of Bethulia, conspicuously situated on an eminence, westward of the Lake of Gennesareth, and visible from the spot where our Lord was sitting, may possibly have suggested this illustration.—Our Lord on other occasions pointed out lessons to be drawn from objects that struck the eye at the moment.

Ver. 15. *light a candle.*] "Candle" here, in the language in which St. Matthew writes,