

## AUTHORITY.

"For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch."—St. Mark xiii. 34.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice."—Prov. xxix. 2.

"That's our minister, he always looks in, and we're glad he does, for his prayers are mighty fine, and his words so helpfully nice."

So spake the farmer to his newly hired man, and yet the "minister" as he rode away was't much to look at, quite ordinary in fact, a country parson to all appearance, nothing more, whence then the power to attract and the chain to hold? Authority, with the presence of Christ.

The Master surely dwelt within the servant, in the mind, in all humility, all simplicity, all tenderness. Years before, as a boy, the truth had been perceived from Sunday school lessons learned, then received and impressed, and with the growth into manhood had developed a love for souls, and this love had urged to study and preparation for the great work of the ministry. Later on came the choice in call. The grand Cathedral rose in beautiful design, the centre of the Parish which had many attractions, with a people of special qualities to detain, but the Macedonian cry: "Come over and help us," had likewise been heard, and so the recently ordained, with the prayerful: "Here am I, Lord, send me," went forth, far away over the sea, away from house, and family, and scenes so dear, to the great land beyond.

There, there he goes over the rough roads, in bush and on plain, through mud and deep snow, always cheerful, a great big heart in touch and sympathy with all. A living reality in the spirit of the inspired Psalmist's words: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; and dwell in the land, and follow after faithfulness." An honest man with a good name, walking in the authority of God, and how did he show his authority? By self assertion, priestly arrogance, a spirit intolerant and confined? Not so, but in simple reliance upon God's Word, wherein he had read his title to call and permission to serve. He was perfectly sure of his Master's authority and power, joyously glad of the privilege accorded him, and fearlessly bold in proclaiming the truth.