

men, who assisted their father to make brooms whenever their farm duties permitted them. Crooks, their neighbour, had four sons and two daughters, the whole of whom were weavers. Purdee was respected by all who knew him; and his two sons, like himself, were justly regarded as fine specimens of honest, hard-working yeomen of the humbler class; men always ready to assist their neighbours, and do a kindness if they were able. Simple and unostentatious in their habits of daily life, they endeavoured to live in peace and charity with everyone. This, however, is no easy matter to do, as the oldest of our books teaches us, and as the Purdees found by experience. Their neighbour, Crooks, was one of those men, difficult to agree with under any circumstances. He was generally considered to be honest, so far as regarded the payment of his lawful debts, and in some few cases he had discovered indications of a generous nature hidden under a thick, almost impenetrable, covering of selfishness.

He was known to be vindictive, quarrelsome, and ready to take offence at any trifle which his captious mind could construe into an injury or cause for quarrel. One of his common boasts was, that he would walk any night seven miles to revenge an injury, and from his well-known disposition it was readily believed that he would do this and more. This unhappy disposition caused him to be hated and despised by some—feared, shunned, or pitied by others, according to their own tempers and views. One thing ~~is~~ certain, he was loved and respected by none. He had come to that part of the country from a distance, and very little was known about him, although he had been there for several years. Owing to their somewhat isolated condition, the two families were brought more into contact and intercourse with each other than with their more distant neighbours; but this intercourse could never be considered familiar. Their habits and language were widely different from each other, and more especially was this manifest in their Sabbath life and observance. The Crooks were never seen at any church, while no weather prevented the attendance of the Purdees at their own chapel.

The Sunday was a special day at the Crooks for any kind of sport, or field-labour, if anything particular was to be done, such as haying or building up portions of wall which might have been thrown down during the week. The boundary or fence walls of these moor and hill farms are built of dry stone, and usually are six or more feet in height, as a necessary protection against sheep, which seem to possess an innate, determined propensity for wandering into forbidden places and pastures. This proclivity occasions the farmers no little trouble, for, by their repeated and persevering attempts to scale them, the best built walls will in time get loosened, and so breaches are occasioned. The violent storms of wind, too, which often sweep over those elevated enclosures, shake the walls to such a degree that they gradually lose their perpendicular and fall, or have to be taken down and rebuilt, as a precaution against injury to the cattle.

Sometimes, however, the mischievous, malicious hand of man occasions a breach, expressly to facilitate the trespass of beasts of pasture; thus forcibly illustrating that profound truth and beautiful simile of man's natural perversity, which stands as a rare gem among the rich settings and adornment of Isaiah's pastoral imagery. Occasionally Mr Purdee, on his way to chapel on the Sunday morning, would discover his neighbour at some kind of farm labour; but these were usually surprises, for Mr. Purdee had noticed that as soon as Crooks saw him coming down the lane, he would leave his work and walk away, generally to the house.

So, when opportunity offered, Mr. Purdee would kindly, but plainly, remonstrate against his violation of those sacred commands he had himself been taught to reverence and obey from childhood; but, both advice and invitation were, to all appearance, thrown away upon his intractable neighbour.

Many were the expedients he adopted at different times, to gain his confidence and win him over from his vicious life and the fearful moral influence of his pernicious training and example in his own family. Crooks' two eldest sons were full grown men, and like their father, were remarkably industrious; and so far as reciprocal