

become 'the reproach of men, and the outcast of the people.' He has been reviled, insulted and rejected. He has been exposed to all manner of danger and to the fury of the most unrelenting enemies—and all for the dear sheep whom he loved so much. He has done more. He has died in their defence—died to save them—died to restore them life—died to preserve them from eternal death, and thus fully proved that he was 'the good shepherd who gives his life for his sheep!'

What are the duties of the sheep towards their Shepherd, and so good a shepherd?

To know him.

To hear his voice.

To follow him.

*My sheep know me.* Yes, to belong to Christ's flock we must know him. We must possess that knowledge of him which will make us wise unto salvation. This is eternal life, that they thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent " We must know who he is, and what he has done for us. We must know something of his natures, his attributes, his perfections, his doctrine, his sufferings, and his infinite love. We must know him better, and more intimately, and more affectionately, than anything else. We must think of him, and speak of him, and study him and strive to imitate him.

Do we know him? Do we know Jesus as we ought? Do we know him, as he deserves to be known? Do we 'judge ourselves to know nothing but Him,

and Him crucified?' To how many of us may not be addressed the complaint of the Baptist to the Jews. *There hath stood in the midst of you, one, whom you know not,*—or his own tender reproach to St. Philip *So long a time have I been with you, and you have not known me!*

We should hear his voice. All his faithful sheep do. *They know his voice, but they know not the voice of strangers.* He stands at the door of their hearts, and knocks. They know him and *know his voice.* *Their souls melt when he speaks, and they open to Him,* If any hireling speaks they pay him no attention, for they know not his voice. If any Shepherd *who has not entered by the door* presumes to address them, they neither listen nor obey. And these sheep of Christ well know that every one is a hireling who has not entered by Him, entered by his Church, entered by them to whom he said. *As my Father sent me so I send you Go teach all nations,—and behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world.* It was of such mercenary intruders his apostle asked *How can they preach unless they be sent?* Of them, the Lord himself spoke. *I have not sent these Prophets, and they ran.*

We should follow our good Shepherd. We should follow him during life, and follow him until death. For this 'He suffered leaving us an example that we should follow his steps' For this he said