

ministers, for conscience sake, had to leave their churches, and often to suffer much from poverty. I shall tell you about one of them, the Rev. Oliver Heywood. He was a very pious man, with a wife and large family. They lived near the town of Halifax, in Yorkshire. Sometimes they really did not know how to get food. One day they were in much distress, with no provisions in the house. Mr. Heywood said to a faithful servant, who had stayed with them in all their troubles, "Martha, take a basket, and go into town, and ask Mr. N——, the shopkeeper, if he will lend me five shillings. If he does, buy such things as you know we most want. May God give you good speed, and, in the meantime, we will pray to Him who feedeth the young ravens that cry."

Martha set out, but when she came near the shop, she felt no courage to do what was so like begging, and she passed the door again and again. At last Mr. N——, looking out, called to her, and asked if she were not Mr. Heywood's servant. Upon her replying that she was, he said, "I am glad to see you, for some friends have given me five guineas for your master, and I was just thinking how I could send the money." Poor Martha was quite overcome by these words, and burst into tears. Seeing that the shopkeeper was surprised at her agitation, she told him the state of the family, and what she had been sent for; and he begged that if they were ever in such straits again, she would have no scruple in coming to him for help.

You may believe how joyfully she purchased provisions, and how fast she walked home. The hungry children seized the basket to see what was in it, while good Mr. Heywood heard Martha's story, and then said, "The Lord has not forgotten to be gracious; his Word is true from the beginning. They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."

At another time this excellent man was in such danger from his persecutors, that he had to leave his family, and set out on horseback one cold winter's day, with no money, not knowing where to go for shelter. He prayed earnestly to the Lord his shepherd, committed himself to his care, and then resolved to let the horse just take any road it pleased. In the evening it went of its own accord to a retired farm-house, where Mr. Heywood asked a woman, who was at the door, if she could give him a little hay for his horse, and allow him to sit during the night by the fire. He told her he had no money to pay for anything, but she and her husband gave him a kind welcome. They placed supper on the table, and as he mentioned having come from near Halifax, the farmer asked if he could tell them anything about Mr. Heywood, who had been forbidden to preach. He soon saw from the way they spoke, that they were friends, and at last ventured to tell them that he was the very person. Then the good people were full of surprise and joy; they thanked God that he had been led to their roof, and called some Christian neighbours together to join with them in prayer, and hear a sermon from him. They gave him money to help him on his journey, and the history goes on to say, that in after days he returned to those new friends, and preached among them with much success.

But, as I said before, this is only one example out of many, of how the Good Shepherd provides for his people. Oh! seek to know him *early*, to come as lambs into his fold. Let the "prayer of Moses, the man of God," be often yours, "O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days" (Ps. xc. 14).

"Yes, for me, for me he careth,  
With a "shepherd's" tender care;  
Yes, with me, with me he shareth,  
Every burden, every fear.