

water, in shady groves where the sun shall not smite them. The lambs and feeble ones who are tired and weak, he lifts in his arms and carries, and is very gentle with those who cannot walk as fast as the others. He protects them from evil beasts so that they are safe even in the wilderness, and sleep without fear in the woods. If any stray away he cares even more for them than for those safe in the fold. He searches for them, seeks them out in all the places where they are lost in the dark, and feeds them in a fat pasture upon high mountains. He comforts and satisfies them so that they lie down contented and quiet, which sheep never do when they are hungry or ill at ease in any way. He binds up wounds and strengthens the sick. He makes all the places round about them a blessing, and sends upon them showers of blessings, because, he says, "ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God." Ezek. 34. 31.

In the Shepherd Psalm, the 23d, we find the sweetest, most refreshing place in all this beautiful pasture. We may stop here and rest. We are quite content, wanting nothing, for we know who is our Shepherd. We know his voice. He calls us by name. Tired, we lie down satisfied beside the waters of quietness. Life is restored; the soul, dead within us, breathes again and springs to joyful activity. The shadow which once cast over everything its gloomy shade is transfigured; its evil shapes assume the beauty of angel faces. We fear nothing; we have love feast with our enemies; our cup of goodness and mercy is more than enough for one day at a time; it is so full we know it will last all the days of our life, and its last sweet drop will be the assurance of blessedness in the house of the Good Shepherd forever.

Have you found this sweet resting place with the beautiful Good Shepherd? Do you know his voice? He is calling you. He is looking for you. He is never content with the ninety and nine in the fold while one is straying outside. If you are a "little black sheep" lost in the wind and rain, it is you he is most anxious to find. There is safety only in his fold. There is no food or drink for the soul except in his pasture. There are no secure paths except where he leads. There is no quietness except he gives it; the valley of death is very dark without the light of his face; the path through it is hard without his rod and staff to comfort us.

May you, dear members of my class, never be misled by the voice of strangers, but say with glad hearts:

"Dear Shepherd, I hear, and will follow thy call;
I know the sweet sound of thy voice."

The Teachers' Meeting.

Make a careful picture of an oriental sheepfold—a low, flat building, at one end of a stone-walled yard, with sharp thorns on top of the walls to keep away wolves and robbers; of oriental sheep, so different from our own in form and habits—their docility and intelligence and helplessness; of an oriental shepherd, leading the sheep in the morning over the hillsides, tenderly caring for them all day, at night calling his own by name out of several mixed flocks, and guiding them back to the fold.... Note how the sheepfold symbolizes the Church of Christ.... Show wherein Christ is the Good Shepherd. (1) He enters by the door; (2) Calls his own sheep; (3) Leads them out; (4) Gives his life for them. Note, also, how Christ's minister and the Christian teacher are shepherds. (The word "pastor," which is commonly used instead of minister, really means shepherd, and is derived from the same source from which comes the phrase "sheep pasture.").... Notice traits in which the sheep may stand as types of Church members. The true sheep (1) Hear Christ's voice; (2) Know his voice; (3) Follow him; (4) Shall be saved, and find pasture.

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