

might mention, but we must in the small space at our disposal be as comprehensive as possible. These minor duties may be imagined. But the flock, what of it! Has it not corresponding and binding duties,—the duties of obedience in spiritual things—of sympathetic affection, of deep personal regard, of ready eagerness to assist or second their Pastor in his great work. To cheer and encourage him by taking a lively interest in his affairs and making them partly their own, to strengthen him with their prayers—and when he asks it to aid his gracious purposes with their means. Ah! how many a pure and bright light goes prematurely out, for want of heaven sustaining sympathy. The shepherd is there, but the flock are careless of his voice and heedless of his admonitions. Some are rebellious,—many are indifferent, cold, selfish, and worldly. The shepherd is to them only a shepherd in name. He carries the rod of office—but, alas! not seldom, it is not the rod of authority. In these latter days some of the sheep aspire to be wiser than the shepherd—and think they know the way as well, if not better than he. Sometimes they will take counsel without him, sometimes even against him. What a sad and bewildering sight is this! one which brings in its train the seeds of anarchy and spiritual death. Let each then, Pastor and Flock be ever mindful of their respective duties. Let not the Pastor in magnifying his office attempt to magnify himself, let him not be greedy of honour for his work's sake, let him not concern himself with the rancours and jealousies of parties, except to soften asperities and make if possible, men love each other. Let him not hanker after worldly lucre, to lay it up on earth. Let him not be anxious about worldly honours or the upper seat at feasts, or to live in the mouths of men. All these are defects of character—blots or temptations rather thrown in his way by the wicked one, and he who harbours them is not a true shepherd.

Let not the flock, either, imagine that they have not important duties to perform, and a great part to sustain. Let them not be rigid in their love, nor in their purse. Let them not suppose that their minister is a hired servant to tell them their duty at so much a year, but a guide appointed by God in his mercy to lead them heavenward. The ambassador of an earthly sovereign is a personage of great dignity, and to treat him with disrespect would be considered an affront of a heinous nature. The minister is the ambassador of Christ, commissioned to watch over his interests in this lower world. He comes among his people bringing his credentials with him. And how ought such a message to be received? If he is the faithful representative of his heavenly master, is there any position which can be conceived at once so awfully responsible, or so truly lofty? Yet what is more common now-a-days, than to look upon both the office and the man as a

mere matter of course—as a something that is necessary to keep up appearances, and be within the pale of respectability. How many of us, alas! act as if it were a mere necessary conventionalism, which must indeed be attended to, but at the smallest possible cost. Hence arise the cold and cynical criticisms, the personal indifference, the niggardly and irregular support, which are so common and painful a feature in many of what are called Christian Churches. Is not this something like practical infidelity? is it not at the least a very hollow and very foolish hypocrisy? If there is indeed truth in the sacred oracles of God, as we all profess to believe, what inconsistency to treat their bearer with any thing but the deepest respect. The clergyman, to be sure, is human, and has therefore human infirmities. Who has not? There are spots upon the sun, but we would esteem that man a fool who directed his attention solely to them, without thinking of the ineffable brightness and beauty of the heavenly luminary. Let us be careful, then, to be on our guard against carping too much about little faults. If we look around us, we will find a much better and more profitable occupation for our time and talent. Let us only be earnest in performing our own duties, and we will breathe an atmosphere exhilarating to ourselves, and not without a beneficial effect upon others. We do not wish to sermonize, as it is called, but our readers know how all-pervading is the power of sympathy. And sympathy is but the child of earnestness in a noble cause. We have all need enough of mutual support during our short and chequered journey. We need a guide to lead us by the way. And will that guide not be more trustworthy—more faithful—more devoted to our interests—more anxious about our success—if we, in our turn, give him our trust, our obedience, our affection and our prayers? By pursuing such a course, we are consulting at once our duty and our best interests—our present and our future happiness. Such is our idea of the pastoral relation. What think our readers?

Romances of a Trip to Canada.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

THIS road is one of the greatest achievements of commercial and scientific enterprise. It will, it is said, be exceeded in length by one of our Indian railroads but it will not, in all probability, be surpassed in one at least of its features—the Victoria Bridge. The station-house at Portland is remarkable for that spaciousness and stability, which characterize the public works of the British people. An American company would hardly have put up such a building. There is a curious article in the shape of a clock, suspended aloft over the platform, the hands of which always point