

was overwhelmed with wonder and shame at the strange request ; and pointed out to me another part of the village, the inhabitants of which might be worthy to give me to drink.—“How should I, said she, “who am a Parwari woman, give drink to you ?” I told her I did

not regard the distinctions made by the Brahmins, and counted her well worthy to perform the service I required ; but no argument or entreaty could prevail with her to grant my request. I reached my quarters about nine o'clock.

## THE PRIVILEGES OF CHRISTIANS, BEING THE SUBSTANCE OF A LECTURE ON THE 23d PSALM.

This Psalm, which was penned by David, gives us in the simplicity of the sentiments which it contains, a fine specimen of that peace of mind which those who have put their trust in God, enjoy amid the troubles and afflictions of this world. In this portion of Holy Writ, the care of God in providing for all the wants of his people, is stated with a peculiar beauty as well as plainness. The Psalmist does not here expatiate, as he often does, on the divine majesty and power, with the view of teaching us, that the church must needs be secure against all evil. He rather attempts by means of the most simple but affecting imagery, and by exhibiting God's care towards himself as an individual, to win our hearts also—to put our trust in that God, in whom he testifies one may so safely confide and calmly repose.

Before illustrating the full import of this divine song, it may be proper first to state at large, the two metaphors which are here employed for the purpose of representing the care which God takes of his people. The former of these is founded on the care which a shepherd takes of his sheep. “*The Lord is my Shepherd.*” It may be observed, however, that we can hardly, in the present state of society, where the care of flocks is esteemed a mean employment, perceive the whole expressiveness and beauty of the metaphor. The manners of the Israelites of old were different from ours. With them a shepherd was a most honorable employment. The Patriarchs had been all shepherds—their prophets and princes were engaged in this occupation, and the royal Psalmist who penned this song, and who sat upon the throne, was taken from the same class of men. In such a state of society they were better fitted than we are to appreciate the full amount of the statement which the Psalm-

ist makes, when he says “*The Lord is my Shepherd.*” It is easy, however, to gather from this psalm what were the duties of a good shepherd: he takes care that his sheep do not want, either in respect of comfort or protection. He leads them not to those dry places where there is scarce so much of the green blade as will preserve them in life. He leads them rather to those rich and flowery meadows, where having eaten of the tender grass, they may lie down in peace. And not only does the good shepherd take care that his sheep have abundance of food, but he provides carefully for their comfort. He leads them along the margin of streams where they may be refreshed amid the heat of summer by the coolness of the waters. He takes care also, not to lead them to those places where the stream foams and is agitated by the rocks, which oppose it in its progress—but he leads them to calm pools, where the waters are always unruffled, and where they may drink at their leisure in safety and in peace.

The good shepherd has a tender care of his sheep, for should any of them in its waywardness happen to wander, he follows it; he brings it back, carrying it in his bosom, and having put it again into the flock, he leads them and guides them in straight and proper paths, because he is a tender and faithful shepherd. He protects his sheep also amidst the greatest dangers. For should they at any time have to cross some dark and dismal pass, where there are beasts of prey ready to devour them, and where they are in danger of falling over the gloomy precipices, and being dashed against the rocks; still even here they are safe, and so simple and implicit is their confidence in the protection of their shepherd, that they will walk forward amid darkness and danger, directed by his rod, and defended by his staff, until they ascend to