

flowing. It is an inexhaustible fullness. 'The saints of God have been receiving out of it in all past time, and yet it is *all fullness* still, and the last sinner saved by grace will come to a fountain of living water as full and unfailing, as that to which sinners are now invited, that their souls may live.

2. *All were welcome to partake of these waters* flowing from the smitten rock. As there was a supply for all, so there was a welcome for all. No thirsty Israelite was excluded. In like manner, all that feel their need are welcome to Christ. None are excluded from a participation in the blessings of the great salvation, but those who exclude themselves by their impenitence and unbelief. The invitations of the Gospel are most precious and encouraging: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

3. The water from the smitten rock *continued to flow as long as it was needed*. There was not only a present supply, but provision made for future necessities. Refreshing streams followed them through all their windings and turnings, in that dry and parched land, until they came to the land of rest, "of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills." And those who come to Christ may rejoice in the assurance that He will never forsake them. That "spiritual rock" will follow them in streams of heavenly grace and consolation, all their journey through the wilderness, and the people of God may sing in triumph "those strains that once did sweet in Zion glide."—

"Goodness and mercy all my life,
Shall surely follow me:
And in God's house for evermore,
My dwelling-place shall be."

THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK.

In the recently published "Life of Dr. Duff," the famous missionary, is the following incident:—

In 1849 Dr. Duff was travelling near Simla, under the shadow of the great Himalaya mountains. One day his way led to a narrow bridle-path cut out on the face of a steep ridge. Along this narrow path, that ran so near a great precipice, he saw a shepherd leading on his flock, the shepherd going first, and the flock following him. But now and then the shepherd stopped and looked back. If he saw a sheep creeping up too far on the one hand, or going too near the edge of the dangerous precipice on the other, he would at once turn back and go to it, gently pulling it back. He had a long rod, as tall as himself, around the lower half of which was twisted a *band of iron*.

There was a crook at one end of the rod, and it was with this the shepherd took hold of one of the hind legs of the wandering sheep to pull it back. The thick band of iron at the other end of the rod was really a staff, and was ready for use whenever he saw a hyena, or wolf, or some other troublesome animal, come near the sheep; for, especially