

officials has his place at table marked by a silver thaler piece (about three shillings) lying at the bottom of his large tankard, and visible through the clear, golden wine with which the bumper is filled. Etiquette demands that the drinker should taste of the wine but sparingly at first, merely wetting his lips, and affecting not to perceive the silver coin; but when the health of the new pastor is drunk each man must empty his tankard at one draught, skilfully catching the thaler between the teeth as he drains it dry. The coin is then supposed to be treasured up in memory of the event.



The village pastor, who lives among his people, must adopt their habits and their hours. Five o'clock, and even sooner, must find him dressed and ready to attend to the hundred and one requirements of his parishioners, who, even at that early hour, come pouring in upon him from all sides. Perhaps it is a petition for some particularly fine sort of turnip seed, which only the Herr Vater has got; or else he is requested to look into his wise book to see if he can find a remedy for the stubborn cough of a favourite horse, or the distressing state of a calf's digestion. Another will bring him a dish of golden honey-comb, with some