

though mild was profoundly dark, and it was with some difficulty that he managed to make his way, familiar as he was with every foot of the ground.

At a short distance from home his attention was arrested by the voice of some one calling for help; and on approaching the spot from whence the sound proceeded, he found a person standing beside a one-horse wagon, which had been upset in a deep and miry hole. Charles at once was convinced that without lights and assistance it would be impossible to extricate the vehicle; and, inviting the stranger to accompany him to his dwelling, he promised to furnish the necessary aid.

On entering the house, Beverly discovered that his guest was a slenderly-made clerical-looking personage, with a countenance expressive both of benevolence and firmness. Apparently not more than twenty-five years had passed over his head; and he exhibited that air and bearing so difficult to define, and yet so unmistakeable, which invariably marks the gentleman and the scholar.

The stranger having performed the ablutions which his mishap had rendered absolutely necessary, expressed some anxiety to know whether any communications were in waiting for him at the post-office. "It is too late now, sir," said Charles, "to learn tonight; but if you favour me with your address, I shall cause inquiries to be made early in the morning."

We shall not attempt to describe the feelings of the host when he heard his guest pronounce the name of *Clarendon*. "What!" he exclaimed, "are you indeed the pastor for whose coming we have been praying so long!—" More he would have added, but his feelings grew too strong for utterance, and sobs and tears of joy alone could express the emotions which agitated his breast.

It is hardly necessary for us to say that ere that household sought repose, the vesper sacrifice of prayer and praise was duly offered up. Sweetly and refreshingly as water to a thirsty pilgrim of the desert did the long unheard sounds of the Liturgy, spoken by a clergyman, fall upon the ear of

Charles Beverly. Never did his heart feel so tender—never did the flame of his spiritual love burn with a purer or warmer flame. Long years of privation were forgotten: he felt as if he were once more in the Gospel-blessed home of his boyhood!

[Original]

THE CHURCH SCHOLAR'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

CHAPTER III.

Ver. 1. *In those days.*] St. Luke specifies the precise date, viz., the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar, *i. e.* A. D. 26. Our Lord was at this time about thirty years of age. At this age, according to the Jewish law, a priest might enter upon the public ministry of the Church.

—*John the Baptist.*] So called among Christians, to distinguish him from John the Evangelist. That he should baptize persons was no new thing. The Jews were accustomed to baptize proselytes from the neighbouring nations. Those who received John's baptism would profess themselves to be expectants of the speedy approach of the Messiah, who would restore again the kingdom to Israel, and make all things new.

—*the wilderness of Judæa.*] The desert of Judæa extended along the west side of the Dead Sea, from the ford at its southern extremity to its northern termination, and then some distance along the west bank of the Jordan. It was a high, rocky region, intercepted by deep ravines, through which several torrents from the hills enter the Dead Sea; as for example, Kedron, which flowed under the walls of Jerusalem. There were towns and villages, and very fertile spots, in this "desert" or retired region. In Joshua (xv. 61, 62), the catalogue of cities or towns, falling to the lot of the tribe of Judah, gives, among other names,—“In the wilderness, Beth-arabah, Middin, and Secacah, and Nibshan, and the city of Salt, and En-gedi; six cities with their villages”—*i. e.* their suburbs; so that it is plain, that