

home and livelihood, and also liberty to preach the Gospel as his heart might prompt him."

To many an anxious child of earth have the strong and stirring lines of this inspiring hymn brought hope and cheer. One such instance is deserving of special notice. Near the village of Warsaw lived a pious peasant named Dobyr. Through manifold misfortunes this good man was unable to pay his rent for three successive years. Winter's cold was now upon the land, and eviction stared him in the face. On the morrow he and his family were to be turned out into the snow. That evening, gathering his little household around him, they sang Gerhardt's hymn of trust, and knelt in prayer. While thus engaged, there was heard a "rapping at the window lattice." On opening the window, "in there stepped a stately raven," carrying in his bill a golden band, set with precious stones. This the peasant took at once to his pastor, who informed him that it belonged to Stanislaus, their king, to whom the preacher returned it, and told the story of his unfortunate parishioner. Dobyr was immediately summoned to the palace, where he received royal thanks and large reward. In the following spring Stanislaus built the peasant a comfortable home, and stocked his stalls from the royal stables. Over the portal of this princely homeplace, a tablet was erected, on which was carved a raven, holding in its beak a ring. Underneath were inscribed these lines from Gerhardt's immortal hymn,

"Thou everywhere hast sway  
And all things serve Thy might,  
Thy every act pure blessing is,  
Thy path unsullied light."

The most famous and best loved metrical arrangement of the twenty-third Psalm is that of Fran-

cis Rous, "The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want."

Rous was a native of Halton, in Cornwall. He received his education at Broadgate Hall, now Pembroke College, Oxford. He studied law, and was a member of Parliament under Charles I. In 1657 he was a member of the House of Lords, and was one of Oliver Cromwell's Privy Council. Although a layman, he was chosen a member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines. To this august body Rous' version of this psalm was presented, in 1643, and three years later it was adopted. Three years afterwards it was approved by the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, and has been the standard version in use ever since.

Dr. John Ker says: "Every line of it, every word of it, has been engraven for generations on Scottish hearts, has accompanied them from childhood to age, from their homes to all the seas and lands where they have wandered, and has been to a multitude no man can number, the rod and staff of which it speaks, to guide and to guard in dark valleys, and at last through the darkest."

Among the many touching incidents that might be cited in connection with this famous hymn we may mention the following from Crockett's "Men of the Moss Hags." The Claverhouse troops were scouring the hill country and haling the supposed enemies of King Charles to imprisonment and death. One day a company of red-coats, under command of a certain Captain Johnston, came upon a group of children, whose parents had gone into hiding for fear of the king's men. The leader of this soldier-band sought to make the little people disclose the hiding-places of their sires. But threats and curses were alike