

praise, I am going to make you a fair offer; and let it be understood that our friendship will not alter whether you accept or decline. A little sum of about fifty pounds has been put at my disposal to give away—the gift is not mine, merely the disposing of it; and I propose, on a certain harrowing condition, to offer it to you entire for your building. The condition is, that I may write to you as often as may be until next year, and tell you exactly what I think of your doctrine and ministry, you taking these letters in good part, and answering them with equal candour whenever you like. You tell me that the small sum I have given you has saved you “an enormous lot of begging,” so I hope that my present offer, if accepted, would save you more time than it claimed. Look before you leap! I shall be quite cheerfully brutal in my growls and barks at you. A young man like you, just installed in that rare old vicarage, looking out of stone mullions at a garden brimful of flowers, has surely enough to