

The Young Churchman

"Feed my Lambs."

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Grassdale.

CHAPTER V.

THE DAWNING OF BETTER DAYS.

One evening, some months after the erection of Deacon Growler's *platform*, Charles Beverly was perusing in the *Church* newspaper an account of the ordination which had recently been held in Toronto. Something in this article appeared to interest him in no ordinary degree; for, laying aside the journal, he knelt down, and with an expression of devout gratitude beaming in his countenance, engaged for some minutes in silent prayer.

The tidings which thus filled the heart of Beverly with holy gladness, were indeed well calculated to produce such an effect. One of the newly commissioned ambassadors of the Cross had been appointed by the Lord Bishop to the pastoral charge of Derwent, the District in which Grassdale was situated, and the paper conveyed the additional intelligence, that Mr. Clarendon, the clergyman in question, had arranged that his letters &c. should be directed to that village.

Here, then, were two special answers to the supplications which Charles had so long been offering up to the Divine Head of the Church. Not only were the wandering sheep in that section of the Diocese to be provided with a shepherd, but Grassdale was to be his head-quarters. "What shall I render unto Thee for all Thy benefits?" exclaimed the thankful Churchman; "Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. Thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever!"

It is proper here to mention that, for some

years preceding the period of which we are speaking, Beverly, and some other members of the Anglican communion in that region, had been memorializing their Bishop to supply, if possible, their spiritual necessities, and had become bound to contribute a stated annual sum towards the maintenance of any clergyman who might be appointed to watch for their souls. Localities which could plead prior, if not more pressing claims, had however to be attended to; and it was only owing to a happy combination of unanticipated circumstances, that his Lordship was enabled to make the arrangement above referred to.

Hence it was that the good tidings came so unexpectedly to the knowledge of Beverly, who had almost begun to give way to the pining heart-sickness of delayed hope.

Christian happiness is far removed from solitary selfishness. The man who has received a communication of spiritual blessings from the ever open treasury of Jehovah, cannot rest till he has made others participators in his joy. Even as the flower, refreshed and cheered by the gracious dew, acknowledges the boon by diffusing around the fragrance thereby imparted to the leaves.

Late, therefore, as was the hour, Beverly set forth to impart to some of his neighbours, holding congenial views with his own, the intelligence which he had received. Many a homestead was made more glad some by his mission of love; and preliminary arrangements were entered into for receiving the new Pastor, and the performance of divine service.

On his return, Charles (who was on horseback) had to direct his course through a rough and muddy side-road. The night