

herd of our souls go before us, leaving the impress of His sacred feet that we may follow the blessed steps of His most holy life, and thus avoid all the dangers with which our wanderings through this vale of misery are beset. Those who have travelled in the East tell us that the sheep will even go across water after one they know well. When a shepherd wants to lead his flock across the river Jordan he chooses a shallow place and goes himself first into the water, and is at once followed by the older sheep. The younger ones show some hesitation, and these the shepherd carries in his arms.

Just as the prophet describes our blessed Lord as gathering the lambs with His arm and carrying them in His bosom.

Just think of the absolute and unquestioning confidence of these mute animals in their own shepherd, and we foolish and headstrong creatures of intelligence cannot trust the Good Shepherd to guide us aright.

We hesitate to enter the troubled waters that we so often have to cross in the wilderness of this world, notwithstanding the fact that He has passed through all these streams Himself and is beckoning us to follow Him. When we come to the Jordan that separates this world of sight from the yet unseen world beyond, the Good Shepherd will meet us there too, and His rod and His staff will guide and support us.

Now let us think for a few moments of all the good things the Good Shepherd has done for us, and of all He is still doing for us; and we shall see that what