

ledge the power that does wonders on the earth while dry, formal, discussional preaching, leaves the hearers just where it found them. Still they who are thus favoured, had need to be favoured with a deal of humility. We are too apt to be proud of that which is not our own. O humility, humility, humility!" It is no wonder, with such impressions as to the nature of his work, and the state of his mind, that Mr. Rowland Hill's preaching was so honoured, and blessed of God. "Lord, help!" was his constant and earnest prayer, and it was heard.

#### THE SHEPHERD OF SALISBURY PLAIN.

MANY of our readers are acquainted with the beautiful tract, "The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain." The substance of this narrative is a correct account of David Saunders, of Wester Lavington, who died about the period of its publication. The conversation represented as passing between the shepherd and a Mr. Johnson, really took place with Dr. Stonehouse, a neighbouring clergyman, who afterwards befriended the shepherd on many occasions. Dr. Stonehouse, who was on a journey, and somewhat fearful from the appearance of the sky, that rain was at no great distance, accosted the shepherd with asking what sort of weather he thought it would be on the morrow. "It will be such weather as pleases me," answered the shepherd. Though the answer was delivered in the mildest and civillest tone that could be imagined, Dr. S. thought the words themselves rather rude and surly, and asked him how that could be. "Because," replied the shepherd, "it will be such weather as shall please God, and whatever pleases him always pleases me." Dr. S. was quite satisfied with this reply, and entered into conversation with the shepherd in the following manner:—"Yours is a troublesome life, honest friend," said he. "To be sure, sir," replied the shepherd, "'tis not a very lazy life, but 'tis not near so toilsome as that which my great Master led for my sake, and he had every state and condition of life at his choice, and chose a hard one, while I only submit to the lot that is appointed me." "You are exposed to great cold and heat," said the gentleman. "True, sir," said the shepherd; "but then I am not exposed to great temptations: and so throwing one thing against another, God is pleased to contrive to make things more equal than we poor ignorant, short-sighted creatures are apt to think. David was happier when he kept his father's sheep on such a plain as this, and singing some of his own psalms, perhaps, than ever he was when he became king of Israel and Judah. And, I dare say, we should never have had some of the most beautiful texts in all those fine psalms if he had not been a shepherd, which enabled him to make so many fine comparisons and similitudes, as one may say, from a country life, flocks of sheep, hills and valleys, and fountains of water." "You think, then," said the gentleman, "that a laborious life is a happy one?" "I do, sir, and more especially so, as it exposes a man to fewer sins. If king Saul had continued a poor laborious man to the end of his days, he might have lived happy and honest, and died a natural death in his bed at last, which you know, sir, was more than he did. But I speak with reverence, for it was divine Providence overruled all that, you know, sir, and I do not presume to make comparisons. Besides, sir, my employment was particularly honoured. Moses was a shepherd in the plains of Midian. It was to shepherds keeping their flocks by night, that the angels appeared in Bethlehem, to tell the best news—the gladdest tidings that were ever revealed to poor sinful men: often and often has the thought warmed my heart in the coldest night, and filled me with more joy and thankfulness than the best supper could have done."

#### A CHRISTIAN SHOULD GET GOOD FROM EVERYTHING.

One day, as Felix Neff was walking in a street in the city of Lausanne, he saw at a distance a man whom he took for one of his friends. He ran up behind him, tapped him on the shoulder before looking in his face, and asked him, "What is the state of your soul, my friend?" The stranger turned, Neff perceived his error, apologized, and went his way. About three or four years afterwards, a person came to Neff, and accosted him, saying, he was indebted to him for his inestimable kindness. Neff bid not

recognize the man, and begged he would explain. The stranger replied, "Have you forgotten an unknown person, whose shoulder you touched in a street in Lausanne, asking him, 'How do you find your soul?' It was I; your question led me to serious reflection, and now I find it is well with my soul." This proves what apparently small means may be blessed of God for the conversion of sinners, and how many opportunities for doing good we are all continually letting slip, and which thus pass irrecoverably beyond our reach. One of the questions which every Christian should propose to himself on setting out upon a journey, is, "What opportunities shall I have to do good?" And one of the points on which he should examine himself on his return, is, "What opportunities have I lost?"

#### OLIVE TREES.

ONE of the principal fruits cultivated by the Jews was the olive. It was particularly valuable, on account of the oil which it yielded when ripe; and, when cultivated with care, the fruit is much finer than on the wild trees. This is beautifully alluded to in Rom. xi., where St. Paul reminds the Gentiles of the inestimable benefits they receive from being admitted into the Church of Christ. The olives were cultivated in gardens separately: this explains what was said by Elisha, 2 Kings v. 26. Nehemiah complained of the wealthy Jews, who withheld the olive-yards belonging to their poorer brethren, Neh. v. 11; also 1 Sam. viii. 14. But olive-gardens are particularly to be remembered, as our Lord often went to one of them, and prayed with his disciples. It was in that place he suffered much anguish of mind for poor sinners, as is recorded by the evangelists, particularly in St. Luke's Gospel, chap. xxii. 39-46.

#### A CAVE OF WALDENSES.

THE following description of one of the caverns into which the Waldenses fled for safety from their persecutors, may give some idea of the ingenuity which these afflicted people were compelled to exert for their own safety, as well as the natural asylums of many of the mountains which were afforded them by divine Providence. Near the lofty and projecting crag which soars above Mount Vaudelin, there was a natural cavern, which the inhabitants of the *commune* (department or district) of La Torre contrived to make a secret hiding-place. This cavern, in which three or four hundred might conceal themselves, was vaulted, and shaped not unlike an oven, with clefts in the rock, which served for windows, and even for loop-holes; and prepared with recesses, which answered the purpose of watch-houses, from whence they might observe the motions of their assailants. There were also several chambers within this vast cave, accommodations for cooking meat, and a large fountain-well supplied with water. It was impossible to enter it, except by one hole at the top; and those who were in the secret, could only let themselves down one at a time, and by a very slow and gradual process, with the assistance of steps or foot holes cut in the rock. In fact, it was like descending into a mine; and one or two resolute men might easily defend the entrance against the assault of any force that could be brought against them.

#### ORIGIN OF WINE.

JEMSHED, the founder of Persepolis, is by Persian writers, said to have been the first who invented wine. He was immoderately fond of grapes, and desiring to preserve some, they were placed for this purpose in a large vessel, and lodged in a vault for future use. When the vessel was opened the grapes had fermented; and their juice in this state was so acid, that the king believed it must be poisonous. He had some vessels filled with it and "poison" written upon each, they were placed in his room. It happened that one of his favorite ladies was affected with a nervous headache, (hyphas), and the pain distracted her so much that she desired death. Observing a vessel with "poison" written on it, she took it and swallowed the contents. The wine, for such it had become, overpowered the lady, who fell down in a sound sleep, and awoke much refreshed. Delighted with the remedy, she repeated the dose so often that the monarch's poison was all drunk. He soon discovered this, and forced the lady to confess what she had done. A quantity of

wine was made, and Jemshed and all his court drank of the new beverage; which, from the circumstance that led to its discovery, is this day known in Persia by the name of Zebere-Kochshon, the delightful poison.

#### CIVIL INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF WINCHESTER.—Died on 1st inst., at his residence in Cavendish-square, Charles Legoldshy Burroughs Paulet, 13th Marquis of Winchester, Earl of Wiltshire and Baron St. John of Basing, Premier Marquis of England.

BANQUET OF THE DISSENTING MINISTERS AT THE MANSION HOUSE.—The Lord Mayor gave a splendid entertainment on Tue-day, 7th ult., to upwards of fifty of the leading Dissenting clergymen of the metropolis, together with some of the most influential laymen of the several denominations.

DR. WOLF'S MISSION TO BOKHARA.—The Rev. Dr. Wolf reached Constantinople, on the 3d ult., on his way to Bokhara, to ascertain the fate of Lt. Col. Stoddart and Capt. Conolly. The object of his mission meets with general sympathy in that city.

IMPRESSIVE SCENE.—On Sunday week, sixty-nine fishermen, who had been saved from shipwreck, during the awful storm on the 18th ult., publicly returned thanks to Almighty God, in Cromer Church, Norfolk. They all arose when their names were called over by the officiating ministers, and then, on their knees, joined in the beautiful form of thanksgiving in our church service.—*Times*.

ROYAL MUNIFICENCE.—Her Majesty has granted a pension of £200 per annum to Sir William Hamilton, Professor of Astronomy, and President of the Royal Irish Academy.

We understand that Alex. Matheson, Esq., of Ardintoul, has purchased the beautiful Highland property of Inverriarie, in the county of Ross, at the price of £30,000, from Thomas Mackenzie, Esq., of Applecross, M. P.—*Edinburgh Paper*.

From an official return just presented to the Government, it appears since the year 1829, no less than forty-five thousand new houses, forming seven hundred and fifty new streets and squares, have been erected, or are in the course of building in London, and its suburbs.

A garrison order was issued on Saturday at Chatham, forbidding soldiers, excepting orderlies, walking with switches or sticks of any kind, such a habit being deemed unsoldier-like and injurious to the carriage of the men.

#### IRELAND.

Extensive fortifications are now in course of erection in Portobello and Richmond barracks, adjacent to Dublin.

The *Evening Post* of this afternoon states that "arrangements are in progress for resisting a street insurrection in Dublin: the Castle yard is impeded with sand bags, and *chevaux de frise* have been prepared to assist the operations of the military in the streets, in case of an *emeute*."

The *Dublin Evening Mail* publishes a number of letters, which show that much alarm prevails among the Protestants at rumours of an intent of insurrection. Some of the writers boast that they would resist attacks on their houses. The alarm appears to be genuine, whatever the cause may be. At Sligo, Castlebar, and Ballintra, military precautions were redoubled last week; it is supposed on account of similar rumours.

In two places, Castletomer and Mayo, Catholic priests have indulged during Divine service in violent attacks on the Executive Government; troops stationed in the towns being present: the soldiers were in each case marched out of chapel, by the commanding officer.

Mr. Waller, whose house at Finnee was so ferociously attacked, is dead. He seemed to be recovering; but the bad symptoms suddenly recurred, and he expired on Wednesday morning. The shock to Mrs. Waller was so severe that her life also is said to be in danger. Mr. Waller leaves a daughter and two sons. Both the sons are barristers and one of them acted as Assessor in Dublin at the memorable election of 1841.

Government have offered an increased reward, £150, for the apprehension of the men who attacked Mr. Waller's house; and Mr. Brereton, a Magistrate, has offered £500 for their conviction, and £100 for private information of each person concerned.