

O Heavenly Shepherd ! feed me still
 In pastures so divine ;
 And ever to obey Thy will
 My wandering heart incline.
 And while I hear Thy gracious voice,
 Which bids my inmost soul rejoice ;
 My Saviour ! may my spirit be
 Filled with absorbing love to Thee.

Dr. Malan, of Geneva, translated by Jane E. Arnold.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

One of the great practical problems which the Church at the present day has to face, is the children and young people of the Church, and how best to bring them under Church and christian influences. The difficulty is not confined to one Church, or to one country ; it is generally felt and acknowledged. Social bonds are less strict than they were in former generations, and while very much is being done through Sabbath schools and otherwise for the young, yet they are, especially young men, less closely connected with the church, in its services and work, than they were formerly, and than it is desirable they should be. Influences of various kinds are at work to bring about this result ; and the Church itself has been to blame in the matter. Indeed in the United States the children have been so far overlooked in their relation to the Church, that in many quarters even the baptism of the young has become almost obsolete. In large congregations, the number of infant baptisms is exceedingly small. In other quarters, while the baptism of children is not neglected, the baptized children are left to occupy an undefined position, and to grow up as if they had no relation to the Church, and were under no obligations or responsibility. It is of great importance to the Church, that ministers and parents should be aroused to a sense of their duty, and led to avert by all the means in their power, the danger to which we are exposed from this quarter.

We call the attention of all interested in the subject to the following seasonable and suitable remarks which we take from a late number of the *London Weekly Review*. The article is headed "OUR CHILDREN," and is as follows :—

"The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation as before under the law) consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion, *together with their children.*" (*Confession of Faith, chap. xxv., sec. 2.*) The passages of Scripture on which this section is founded are clear and unequivocal. 'For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.' (Acts ii. 39). 'And I will establish my covenant between me and thee, and thy seed after thee in thy generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee' (Genesis xvii., 7). The children of 'those throughout the world that profess the true religion' are recognised by the Bible and our Standards as members of the visible Church. The duty of the Church towards these children is thus clearly defined :— 'Children born within the pale of the visible Church and dedicated to God in baptism, are under the inspection and government of the Church ; and are to be taught to read and repeat the Catechism, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. They are to be taught to pray, to abhor sin, to fear God, and to obey the Lord Jesus Christ. And when they come to years of discretion, if they be free from scandal, appear sober and steady, and to have sufficient know-