

me—*notices, cares for me.*" So does Jesus know and care for *each one singly*, even the wanderers. In that wonderful parable which forms a pendant to the allegory before us, it is *one* sheep, not several, that the shepherd misses, that he goes to seek, that he brings home on his shoulders rejoicing; all the love, care, self-sacrifice, is lavished on *one singly*, as much as if no other existed. Let the question be put home to the scholars—"Has he found you?" Then you *know his voice.* Here is a true test.

2. *The shepherd goes before his sheep.* Most young people can appreciate the comfort of having *some one to go first*—some one to clear the way, some one to show them what to do—some one to look to and lean on. The timid ones have perhaps known what it is to shrink from going forward alone—unprotected and unsheltered. Christ's sheep *need never do this.* Their shepherd goes before them, and as long as they are in his ways, following them, they *cannot* be left. The rough winds of opposition, the thorns and briers of trial and difficulty, must be encountered by him *first*, and the closer they keep to him the less will they feel them. Nay, in the roughest places he will just bear them over, if only they commit themselves to him entirely. But these hang together—"He goeth before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

3. *The shepherd feeds his sheep.* They shall "find pasture." The Bible is full of similar promises, and young Christians would find it a pleasant exercise to count them. But if they would realize them they must remember the conditions. It is "*by me*," (v. 10.) Those who seek their souls' food and strength in Jesus will not be disappointed. But the "life more abundant" can never be fed on the pleasures and pursuits of the world, on pride or selfishness.

Do our scholars know anything of these truths experimentally—the voice, the leading of the shepherd, the food he supplies? If not, may they hear now—hear that loving voice calling them *by name*, and return to him who alone can deliver them from the lion that "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

#### For Senior Scholars.

##### 1. THEMES FOR BIBLE READINGS.

1. BIBLE SHEPHERDS. Gen. 47. 3; Exod. 2. 17; Luke 2. 8, 20; 1 Sam. 16. 11, 19; Matt. 15. 24.

2. THE LORD MY SHEPHERD. Psa. 23. 1, 4; 1 Pet. 2. 25; 5. 4; Heb. 13. 20, 21.

3. HE KNOWS HIS SHEEP. John 10. 14; Ezek. 35. 11-13; 2 Tim. 2. 19; John 10. 27.

4. HE PROVIDES FOR HIS SHEEP. John 10. 9; Psa. 23. 1, 2; Isa. 45. 11; Psa. 34. 10; Rom. 8. 28.

5. HE GUIDES HIS SHEEP. John 10. 3. 16; Psa. 23. 3; Prov. 8. 20; Psa. 48. 14; John 16. 13.

6. HE GIVES HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP. John 10. 11, 15; Isa. 53. 6; Rom. 5. 8; Eph. 5. 2; Titus 2. 14.

7. HE DELIGHTS IN HIS SHEEP. John 10. 28, 30; Mal. 3. 17; 1 Pet. 2. 9; Rev. 7. 17; Psa. 103. 13.

#### 2. SEED-THOUGHTS.

1. What is meant by *climbing up some other way*?

2. Why can such be called *thieves and robbers*?

3. Why is he called a *Shepherd* who enters by the door?

4. What is the difference between the *shepherd* and *porter*, or *watchman*?

5. In what respects does the shepherd represent Christ?

6. How do *sheep* resemble *Christians*?

7. How do Christians know the voice of their great Shepherd?

8. What does the shepherd's *fold* represent?

9. How is Christ the *door*?

10. What of those who attempt to get into heaven *independently* of Christ?

11. Who are meant by those *that ever came before, prophets and patriarchs*?

12. What is the distinctive feature of the good Shepherd?

13. On what condition are the sheep of this good Shepherd *infallibly secure*? (v. 9.)

#### 3. DOCTRINE.

"*Christ's care for his people.*" John 10. 28; 17. 12; 18. 9; Phil. 1. 6.

#### The Primary Class.

In the land where Jesus lived and preached—What land was it? [Palestine. Class repeat]—there were a great many sheep. In the day time they wandered about over the hills nibbling the grass, and at night they were shut up for safety in places called sheep-folds. These were rough sheds opening into a large yard which had a stone wall built all around it. There was a doorway in this wall through which the sheep