

mindful farmer from Upper Marldon, held so firmly to this opinion, that he offered the wanderer a lofty and well-ventilated barn, standing upon the high road to the mother church of the district, and promised to fit it up with all necessary furniture, if Alpheus would play pastor, and henceforth confine himself to a local career in that capacity.

This matter was now under Mr. Newte's consideration, and the prospect appealed to him in various ways; yet he had almost decided against it, for the chances of practical success were doubtful. The Church was strong in Upper Marldon, and Farmer Cloberry had blown hot and cold on more than one occasion.

Now ancient Thomasin was of those who held Alpheus a leader of men.

"Sit down," she said. "Get a chair out the kitchen an' bide in the shade; then speak a comfortin' word to a auld woman. A burnin' an' a shinin' light, like what you be, didn't ought trapse the country wi' a gert basket full o' fal-lais an' trinkrums — all foolish toys to catch sweethearts."

"Burning an' shining I am, mother; but 'tis the sudden fierceness of the sun on a carcass