

**THE SHEPHERD AND HIS
SHEEP, AN EXPOSITION
OF THE 23RD PSALM**

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The Shepherd and His Sheep, an Exposition of the 23rd Psalm by William Harrison

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WILLIAM HARRISON

**THE SHEPHERD AND HIS
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THE
SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP.

AN EXPOSITION OF
THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages were written at the desire of a gentleman connected with the press ; but their publication having been made contingent upon the approval of a third party, the intention was given up from his thinking their style but little calculated to promote the reputation of an author. Upon their being preached as sermons, however, they were approved by many who heard them, and the author was requested to print them. To this desire he consented, provided that after being preached a second time they should still be thought worthy of publication ; and this having been the case, he felt that all personal considerations should give way to the prospect of being useful to others. The Author has received a fresh inducement to prosecute the work, from the knowledge that it has pleased God already to bless its pages to more than one soul ;

thus strengthening the main object which he had in view, that of supplying to his poorer and less educated brethren a few thoughts that may comfort and encourage them under a lot not light or easy. The book is therefore offered to the world at the lowest remunerating price to the publisher.

THE
SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP.

CHAPTER I.

THE SHEPHERD.

PSALM xxiii. 1.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.

FEW persons who have dwelt much upon the truths of the Bible have failed to notice the power and beauty displayed in the twenty-third Psalm. It is, certainly, one of the most perfect of those songs which have been poured from the spiritual minds of the inspired servants of God. For it is, in itself, a scheme of the believer's experience and comfort. It is ascribed by some to David, and is so entitled; but others have considered that it was composed after the captivity of Judah. Be this as it may, and it is not of much importance, it

delivers to us in thoughts which no one but a divine spirit could suggest, the blessedness of that man who has accepted the offer of eternal life, and has taken God for his portion. Its fulness and comprehensiveness of doctrine, as showing forth the operations of grace and the privileges of the believer, have been left as a legacy to those who are permitted to behold them, not through the medium of Moses, but in the face of Jesus Christ. For if such a portion of Scripture as that on which we are about to treat, is ever to be understood in its fulness, it is now. Surely, then, it is one calculated to call out the gratitude of the renewed heart, and to strengthen its assurance of grace and peace, as well as to remind the worldly and unthinking, that there is a peace which the world knows not, which it can neither give nor take away, and that it is not only a complete thing but a present possession. The good Lord grant that every one who reads these pages may be happily directed to lay hold of His peace, and to enter within that fold where His secret ones are kept, and where he that enters in "shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

The Psalm opens with a brief but profound proposition, "*The Lord is my shepherd*;" the conclusion is as admirable as the opening is deep, "*I shall not want.*" Upon reading these words one is instantly struck at the contrast which they present to the generality of human sentiments, as well as to the grounds of human self-congratulation and security. When a man has the world before him, his unchanged nature leads him into sad mistakes, the very reverse of this delightful truth. The advice even, which many prudent parents inculcate upon their children, savours much of the spirit of self-dependence. If I can but realize such and such advantages, or secure such and such a station, "*I shall not want.*" If I can but make such a speculation answer, or if affairs do but take this or that turn, I shall be above the world, "*I shall not want.*" Thus reasons the heart, alive and flushed with the excitement of enlarging itself, and of taking its ease in this world. And what does many a prudent parent or friend advise? Be diligent and attentive to business, rise up early, and late take rest, and you shall not want. How refreshing to turn to the simplicity of the Psalmist's grounds of support, "*The Lord is my*