CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

Sunday Reading.

2

The True Shepherd.

I was wandering and weary, When my Saviour came unto me; For the ways of sin grew dreary, And the world had ceased to woo me; And I thought I heard Him say, As He came along His way,-O foolish souls ! come near Me, My sheep should never fear Me, I am the Shepherd true.

At first I would not hearken, And put off till the morrow ; But life began to darken, And I was sick with sorrow. And I thought I heard him say, As He came along His way,-O wandering souls ! come near Me, My sheep should never fear Me; I am the Shepherd true.

At last I stopped to listen ;-His voice could not deceive me! I saw His kind eye glisten, So anxious to relieve me; And I thought I heard Him say, As He went along His way,-O dying souls ! come near Me. My sheep should never fear Me; I am the Shepherd true.

be like Jesus.

He took me on His shoulder, And tenderly He kissed me; He bade my love be bolder, And said how He had missed me : And I'm sure I heard Him say, As He went along His way. O precious souls ! come near Me, My sheep should never fear Me;

thoughts of the day, So whenever you he was, I could wish to have been there confident, and all doubts will vanish. come up to the house of God try and even at the price of sharing their burn- How firmly shall we believe because we learn all that you can from all/the ing-would not you? Or see, a few poor teachings of God's word. Seek good people met together in a cottage talking How safely we shall be guarded against company, and learn by it. Have a deaf about Jesus, as people seldom do now; temptation, even as the sheep are; safe ear to those who speak wickedly, but Jesus is there, and their hearts are from the wolf when the shepherd is always be ready to listen to everything burning within them ! How favored they about your God, your Saviour, your faith, are! If their hearts might otherwise and the heaven where you hope to dwell. have been sad, yet supposing him to be I feel sure also that if he had been in in the company, how restful all the the company going home he would have mourners become; how light every been the most obliging, helpful, pleasing burden grows, how every aching heart child in all the company: if anybody rejoices, for in his presence there is had needed to have a burden carried, fulness of joy. Get but Christ into this boy of twelve would have been the your family circle and it is a ring of first to offer, as far as his strength allowed; delight.

if any kindly deed could be done, he Supposing Jesus to be in the company would be first in doing it. He grew in next how united his people will al favour both with God and men because become! Whenever Christian people he laid himself out to be everybody's fall out, it is because Jesus is not in servant. Mary's son won the love of the company. Whenever there is all around, for he was so unselfish, kind, lack of love, whenever there is a lack of gentle, and willing. He did all that he forbearance, when people fall to faultcould to make others happy; and finding and quarreling one with the blessed are those boys and girls who other, my heart says to me, "Supposing learn this lesson well. Ob, children. him to have been in the company, they you will be happy yourselves if you would not have acted so." They would live to make others happy | Act thus to have looked at him, and straightway. your parents, brothers and sisters, friends have forgiven one another. Nay, they and schoolfellows, and you will in this would hardly have had need to forgive, for they would neither have given nor

I am sure, also, that Jesus would not taken offence, but their hearts would have done in that company as too many have flowed together in one common boys are apt to do. He would not have stream. The sheep are scattered everybeen mischievous, noisy, annoying, and dis where upon the hills till the shepherd obeient ; but he would have been a comcomes, but they know his voice, and fort and delight to all about him. No gather to his person. Jesus is the doubt but he would have been the liveliest centre and the source of unity, and and most cheerful boy in the whole when we have him reigning in his full company, but yet he would not have glory in the midst of the church divisions been rough, coarse, wilful, or cruel. and schisms will cease to be. There would have been no quarrelling where he was; his very presence would have bred peace amongst all the children that were with him. I should like you to think over all that Jesus would have done and would not have done, and then I should be glad to see you acting as he did. Take this little word home with von, dear children,-Ask yourselves often, What would Jesus do? for what Jesus would have done is the best rule for you. And now to you elder folks, "supposing him to have been in the company," and you had been in the company, I will warrant there is not one father or mother but what would have been willing to care for him. Every matron here says, "] would have taken him under my wing." You say that honestly, do you not? You mean it, I am sure. Well, you have an opportunity of proving that you are sincere ; for Jesus is still in our company. You can find him in the form of the poor. If you would have watched over him, relieve their wants; do it to the least of these, and you have done it unto him. You can find Jesus in the form of the sick; visit them. I wish more of God's people would addict themselves to calling upon the sick, visiting them in their loneliness, and cheering them in their needs. As you his say you would have taken care of Jesus, prove it at once by remembering his words, "I was sick and ye visited me." If you would have taken care of Jesus, you can show it by caring for the young, for every young child comes to us under the guardian care of him who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not." You that spend your leisure in seeking to bless the young are proving that, if you have been in that company, you would have taken care of the child Jesus. Above all, consider the orphans; for, had he been in that company, he would have been practically an orphan, for he would have lost for a while both father and mother. Many among you have such He was out one day with a brother said, "I must look after that bright, beau eyed boy would have been among the Evidently he has lost them. Come here stay to tea. She was not a Christian inferior article which looks well enough, Father. There would have been no him to your bosom. Prove it by looking pressed him very earnestly he sat down, are, and let each represent to you the had his parents' supposition been correct. Let us see that the love you is not mere emotion or sentiment, but of it, and this day affects your life and conduct. So far have we gone, and I the Spirit of God help us yet further. IV. But now I change the line of our thought altogether for a little while. Forget the child Jesus now, and let me BE IN OUR COMPANY IN ALL HIS GRACIOUS INFLUENCE, what then? Then, brethren, the world," would have listened to it! company saints cannot but be glad. fect." We shall never be perfected as was in the company, seeing all ! You I think I see his sweet 'ace 'turned You may have seen a picture represent- the servants of God except we walk in his had several opportunities, but you did towards those who spoke of the sprinkled ing certain of the martyrs sitting in conscious presence; but if we walk be- not put in a word for truth and holiness. blood. He would surely have said, prison together. They are to be burned fore him, and he is with us, then shall Now, supposing Jesus to have been in "What mean ye by this ordinance?" by and by, and they are comforting each we be earnest in the winning of souls. the company, I think he must have been He would have been anxious to share other. Now, supposing him to have I am sure, dear friends, that if Jesus sorely grieved. Surely your Lord must

near! What blessed, heavenly lives shall we lead; Surely, it will be small change for us to rise from earth to heaven if Jesus be always in the company, in the family, and in the business; in our sorrows. V. Lastly, I want to dwell, for just a minute, by way of touching the conscience, upon the reflection that JESUS HAS BEEN IN THE COMPANY, whether we have seen him or not. I want you now to look back upon what he has seen in your company, supposing him to have been

there, when you were disputing the other night. Yes, a point of doctrine had come up, and you differed over it. Did you not wax very warm, my brother, even so as to grow red in the face ? Did you not go away from that friend with whom you disputed almost hating him? there, and he was grieved at the way in groan. The chieftain was dying. In a which you remembered his doctrine but few minutes he was dead, and Dr. his presence you would have put your of distress. "Alas," he cried, " had

argument much more sweetly, and you known that my friend was within a few would have spoken, not for the sake of minutes of eternity I would have beating your friend in argument, but preached to him and to you Christ Jesus for the sake of instructing him and and him crucified." With how much glorifying your Lord. You know that more reason may many Christians repent you did not yield a point you ought to of their conversation ! How bitterly may the entire number. Of the 200 stuhave yielded; you knew you were wrong they look back .upon wasted hours ! at the time, but your friend pushed you Supposing Jesus to have been in the hard, and you said to yourself, "I will | company, how often must he have been not give way, though I feel that he is right." Although I suppose that we shall differ about many points till the Cnristian people that we should so often Lord comes, yet when differences arise they will present fair opportunities for holy charity and mutual edification, and these will gladly be seized if Jesus be in our company. When next we argue let each one say, "Jesus is in this company; therefore, while we speak up for what we believe to be true, let us do it in a loving spirit." Our arguments will not loose force by being steeped in love Truth is never stronger than when it walks with charity. Then, again, it may be that some little time ago certain of you were acting in such a way that no common observer could have seen any difference between you and worldlings. You were out in business, dealing with one who was trying to do his best for himself, and you were trying to do your best for yourselves. Do I blame you? Not for being prudent and circumspect; but I hope you will blame yourselves for going far beyond this. You did nothing which I may style dishonest-but did you not sail dreadfully near the wind? You. stated something which I must not call a lie, but still it was not true as you meant it to be understood : was it? Business men too often aim at getting undue advantage of each other: it is "diamond cut diamond," and rather worse at times. If Christian men in all their dealings would suppose Jesus to be in the company, how it would change their manners. Think of Jesus on this side of the counter along with you who sell, and on that side of the counter along with you who buy. You both need his presence, for the buyer is generally quite as intent upon cheating as the sel. ler; he wants the goods for less than they are worth, and the seller therefore rotten right through, but the blame is not at all on ne side. When persons must have goods far below the price for which

against me, and never a word in reply from him whom I redeemed with my are living in fellowship with "the Truth" ! own blood !" Was not this Peter over again in his denials of his Lord? You did not deny him with oaths and cursing but the same cowardly spirit ruled you. Oh, if you had but come out in your true colours! You do not know what an influence you might have had for good. If we set the Lord Jesus Christ always before us, should we not be brave labours and recreations, in our joys and to testify and quick to defend?

Think, again, of these evenings when a few friends meet together : are they not often a waste of time? "Supposing him to have been in the company," as he really is, do you think the evenings should be spent as they frequently are? Dr. Chalmers, a truly devout man, tells us that once at a nobleman's house he spent an evening with various friends, and talked over the question of the cause and cure of pauperism-a subject most suitable for conversation. An aged Highland chieftain among the company listened with great attention to the Doctor, for Chalmers was master of the You know you did. Supposing Jesus subject. Surely they had not spent the to have been in the company, he did evening amiss: but in the night an not smile on that dispute. He was unusual noise was heard, and a heavy

forgot his spirit. Had you perceived Chalmers stood over him, the picture grieved by our frivolities! Do you think that it is greatly to our discredit as meet and so seldom pray? The happiest evenings that Christians spend are when they talk even upon secular subjects in a gracious manner, and do not fail to rise to holier themes, and mingle prayer ann teanksgiuing with their talk. Then when they retire they feel that they have spent the evening as Jesus would approve. Did I not hear the other day of some Christian friend who was going to give up working for Christ? and of a dozen Christian friends who were going to break up, and no more go on with their holy services for Jesus ? One was going to leave the Sunday-school in which he had been for years; another was going to allow a weak church to break up and go to pieces, for he had grown tired of working under discouragements. ano ther said, "I have had my turn, let somebody else do the work now." Supposing Jesus to have been in the company, do you think that such observations pleased him? If Jesus were preceived among us, would any one of us turn his back in the day of battle? No, brethern, since Jesus is with us, let us serve him so long as we have any being. Recollect John Newton, s speech when they told him that he was too old to preach: the venerable man exclaimed, " What, should the old African blasphemer cease to preach while there is breath in his body? Never!" Do not suffer any difficulty, or infirmity, to prevent your perserving in the service of Jesus in some form or other, and when you do feel as if you must leave the ranks, suppose him to be in the company, and march on! Forward, brethern ! Jesus leads the way ! Forward, his presence is wictory ! God bless yon, dear friends, and all tais day may Jesus be in the company to make it a hallowed Sabbath to your souls. Amen

cently entered into rest-Dr. Thomas, Dr. Cramp, and Samuel Green. Fifty. one only of the whole 142 survive. In the last thirty-five years some 200 have entered the ministry, of whom about 190 are still at work, abroad and at home.

AUGUST 1, 1883.

Besides these 200 ministerial students, 109 unpledged to the ministry have passed through the college during the last thirty-five years-25 of whom were sons of missionaries and ministers. Some of these young men have become ministers or missionaries themselves. Some have gone to the Bar. Some have found honourable employment in the Civil Service of India. Ten have gone into the medical profession, and most of them have done honour to their education. This work is aside from the general object of the institution, but it deserves on several grounds a place in this record.

Leaving out of view this lay element. let me compare for a moment or two the work of the two halves of these seventy years.

The literary quality and work of the students during the first thirty-five years may be judged roughly from the fact that, out of 142 students, 9 received in their subsequent ministry the honorary degree of D. D., and 15 received in their studentship the degree of B. A. and M. A .- 24 in all, or one-sixth of dents of the second period 4 received the honorary degree of D. D., 52 the

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1 am the Shepherd true.

Strange gladness seemed to move Him, Whenever I did better; And He coaxed me so to love Him, As if He was my debtor. And I always heard Him say, As He went along His way, O precious souls ! come near He. My sheep should never fear Me; I am the Shepherd true.

I thought His love would weaken, As more and more He knew me, But it burneth like a beacon. And its light and heat go through me. And I ever hear Him say, As He goes along His way, O foolish souls ! come near Me, My sheep should never fear Me; I am the Shepherd true.

Let us do then, dearest brothers, What will best and longest please us Follow not the ways of others, But trust ourselves to Jesus. We shall ever hear Him say, As He goes along His way, O wandering souls ! come near Me, My sheep should never fear Me; I am the Shepherd true. FABER.

2. 10

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"Supposing Him to have been in the Company."

BY C. H. SPURGEON.

"Supposing him to have been in company.-Luke ii. 44.

(Concluded.)

III. Now for a third lesson: THE SUPPOSITION made by these two good people MAY INSTRUCT US. Let us use it at this time, and turn to "Supposing him to have been in the company."

I speak now to children who are hearing this sermon. This is for you. Jesus was about twelve years old, and you are much of the same age. Suppose he had been in the company returning to Nazareth. How would he have behaved himself? Think of Jesus as an example fond maternal hearts that you would have for yourselves. I am sure when the whole company sang a psalm that bright | tiful boy who is now without parents. sweetest singers : he would have sung child, come here !" you would have most heartily the praises of God his felt a joy to have kissed him, and folded inattention or weariness in him when after orphan children wherever they God was to be praised. Among the most devout worshippers you would Jesus of that day as he would have been number the holy child. Therefore, dear children, whenever you come in among God's people, give your whole hearts to feel to Jesus when you read your Bibles the worship : pray with us and sing with us, and endeavour to drink in the truth that practical principle lies at the back which is spoken, for so will you be like the holy Jesus. Let all boys and girls pray that among God's people they may hope not altogether without profit. May behave as Jesus would have done. I feel persuaded that Jesus would have been found in that company listening to those who talked of holy things; especially would be have been eager to use the words concerning Jesus in the hear explanations of what he had seen fulness of his power. Supposing HIM TO in the temple. When the conversation turned upon the Paschal lamb, how that dear child, who was also "the Lamb of first, how happy will such company be ! of God, which taketh away the sin of For with Christ known to be in their

"Supposing him to have been in the company," how holy they would grow. Sin dies as Jesus looks upon it And men's wayward passions yield to his sweet sway. How devout would all hearts be "Supposing him to be in the company !" What prayer there is, and what praise ! There is no hurrying over morning devotion, no falling asleep at the bedside at night when Jesus is in our company. Then our heart is praying all day long, and we delight to pray

together for his coming and his kingdom. How teachable we are, too, when Jesus is in the company, opening the Scrip tures and opening our hearts ; and what sweet communion we enjoy. How souls out to his soul, and hearts to his heart, and how are we knit together in the one Christ! How happy, how united, how holy is the company supposing Jesus to be in it.

When Jesus is in the company how lively they all are. Why, in these warm mornings some seem half inclined to fall asleep, even in the house of prayer -" The spirit truly is willing, but the flesh is weak. But when Jesus is in the company the spirit triumphs over the flesh, and we feel full of life, and power, and energy in the divine service. When our hearts burn within us because of words our bodies cannot freeze. When the soul is quickened by his presence, then the whole man is aroused ... As when the sun rises his light wakes thousands of sleepers, though no voice is heard, so the smiles of Jesus arouse sleeping church, and stir it to zeal and energy.

If Jesus be in the company, how earnest we grow | How zealous for his glory ! How intent to win souls ! am afraid it is because Jesus is not in the company that we allow many sinners to go by us without a warning, and we neglect fine opportunities for serving our Lord. You have heard of hely Mr. Payson, the American divine, a man baits the hook for him. Trade is growing who walked with God in his ministry. minister who had to make a call at a lady's house, and Payson went in with they can be produced, they must not him. The lady pressed them both to marvel if they find that they are sold an woman, and Payson had other business. and therefore he demurred ; but as she and invoked the divine blessing, which he did in terms so sweet and full of holy unction that he impressed everybody. The lady waited upon him with great attention, and when he rose to go he said to her, "Madam, I thank you much for your great kindness to me; but how do you treat my Master ?" A work of grace was wrought in that lady by the question; she was brought to Jesus; she opened her house for preaching, and a revival followed. Now, if Jesus had

but turns out to be worthless. Oh, that you Christian people would always suppose Jesus to be in your company. I can hardly imagine Judas cheating John with Jesus looking on ; nor Philip trading hardly with the lad who had the barley loaves. Should not our dealings among the sons of men be such as Jesus can approve ? He is our Master and Lord ; let us imitate him, and do nothing that we shall be ashamed for him to look upon. Do not accuse me of being personal this morning, for if you do, I will plead guilty. If the cap fits, you wear it. not been with Payson, what had become The other day you were in company, of that woman? I fear that we go in and certain persons were talking proand out among dying men and women, fanely, or was it scepticism which they and we let them perish-yes, we let vented? And you, as Christ's disciple, them be damned without an effort for heard them, and what did you do? Did their salvation, and all because we have you bear witness for the truth? They not obeyed the voice which speaks to us made a joke-it was not over clean' but as it did to Abraham, "I am God Al- you laughed ! Did you not? But, alas, mighty, walk before me, and be thou per- you said nothing for your Lord ! Yet he

A Seventy Years' Report of Re-

degrees of M. A., B. A., and LL.B., mostly in the University of London-56, or more than one-fourth in all. During this last period, moreover, 40 lay students obtained degrees in medicine, literature, and law. The students of the present session, it will be seen, are not inferior to their immediate predecessors in this respect. One has taken his M. A.; another has taken his B.A. and is about to go up for his M. A.; 2 others go up for their second B. A. in October, 8 go up for their first B. A. in July, and 4 have just been in for Matriculation. These form nearly one-half of the ministerial students. The results we cannot foretell. The desire and the resolve we cannot but commend.

Far more important than mere learniog is the spirit-a spirit not easily tested-of our office as Christian workers. In the first thirty-five years of the existence of the institution 16 students gave themselves to the work of God among the heathen, one in nine of whom still survive. During the last thirtyfive years 27 have gone on that work -one in every seven-and all but two are now in the field. Nor is this spirit decaying. In the last three years 7 students have gone to foreign fields-China, Africa, and India-and there are others now in the college whose hearts are set upon this great business ot winning the world to God. As scholarship has grown the missionary spirit has grown-no bad sign of continued spiritual life.

In the metropolitan district we have 25 of our students settled, 13 of whom have formed new churches and built new chapels. As specimens of their work, I may say that the income of four of these churches amounted last year to more than £10,000, the larger half of which-£6,000-was devoted to missionary and benevolent work at home and abroad. The spiritual vigor of these churches may be estimated from these facts. No work is more important than the efficient training of pastors and missionaries. At five out of our seven institutions in this country seven tutors out of ten are our old students. At seven of such institutions abroad other seven have been similarly engaged. These each represent a nationality, and their work will influence, the destinies of many churches for generations to come. I trust that the statement of these facts will not be misunderstood. They are favourable-highly favourable.-That means, in our judgment, that they are God's workmanship, and His alone. "Not unto us, O Lord !" I state them only to prompt thankfulness, and to encourage to, more vigorous work. During the session now closing our students have continued their preaching work. Eleven stations have been regularly supplied, the expense being met partly by the stations and partly by the with the grown-up people all the solemn been in their company, as I doubt not be in the company then we shall be have thought, "What! all this said Pearce, of Calcutta. Others have re- tions have been opened during the year.

above, an work in t light-hea these cla and dign of single To all b shall we same eye love, ligh to face, Oh, the that twe but an h all youn children in the joy not alone change degree in rounding to all, .. homes,] discovere For be Seminary situated a of the C tranquil Tom, sta either si Mary L menceme who ente ing which her sake, and faith the insti building. new oner other fer around h as doing institutio study in a are unriv ly increas while the telescope of astron anical G variety o

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gent's Park College, London. Read at the Annual Meeting by the Rev. J. Angus, D. D.

It is seventy years this month since the first report of this institution was printed, containing, among other things, an address by Abraham Booth and another by Robert Hall. The society had then been in existence six or eight years, and had trained a few students at Olney, under John Sutcliffe, and elsewhere under other pastorssome 23 in all.

In 1810 the premises at Stepney were purchased by William Taylor, a London merchant and member of the church in Prescott-street, and presented to our trustees; and in 1813, when the first report was printed, there were 5 students at Olney, 1 at Exeter, and 9 at Stepney.

In the following thirty-five years (half the time with which I am now dealing) 142 students passed through the college and entered on the ministry. Two among the earlier of them who are still spared to us may be named-