

THE SHEPHERD'S GRAVE.

There is a spot on the Chiltern hills, in the parish of Aston Clinton, called the Shepherd's Grave. It is a lofty Eminence commanding a wide and picturesque view of The surrounding country. Tradition states that a shepherd named Faithful, delighted with the panorama, used to make this spot his common resting place, while attending his master's flock. Becoming at length so attached to it, he exacted a promise from his fellow shepherds that at his death they would bury him here. This promise they fulfilled, and cut in the turf the following epitaph :—

Faithful lived and Faithful died,
Faithful shepherd on the hill side;
The field so wide, the hill so round,
In the day of judgement he'll be found.

The rustics of the neighbourhood used carefully to keep the letters clear; but, having for some time ceased to do so, the word "Faithful" alone was legible when I saw it. The spot, however, was still held in reverence, and my guide approached it with unmistakeable awe, and narrated the story with grave solemnity. This was about 1847; and I am afraid the ground has since been ploughed over.

P.P.P.