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## GOOD MEN THAT WON'T WORK.

Sitting in committee, not long since, in connection with one of our benevolent societies, in the prosecution of whose plans a domiciliary visitation of the town was proposed, the question was asked by the President, who will undertake this work? A number of hands were required for the self-denying task, but nearly all present declared themselves so occupied that they could not render any assistance. Members were then requested to suggest the names of suitable parties outside the committee who would be likely to engage in it, and a number of persons were successively nominated. But to almost every new nomination, some one present would interpose the objection,—“A very suitable person, but I'm afraid he won't undertake it;” or, “He's a good man,—but,—but he won't work!”

So frequently was this repeated that we began to enquire within ourselves, what kind of *goodness* it could be to which these men and women lay claim who “won't work.” *Good for what?* And so, turning up our New Testament in the hope of solving the question, we found ourselves more mystified than ever; for nowhere, in any of our Saviour's discourses, or in the writings of His Apostles, could we discover any commendation of this anomalous class of church members. We met with words of cheer and loving approval for faithful servants,—for sowers, and reapers, and builders, and fishers of men, and workers of every kind in the vineyard of our Lord;—and also of rebuke and condemnation for “wicked and slothful servants,” who hide, instead of using their Lord's money,—for those who “stand all the day idle, or, who, like the barren fig-tree, only cumber the ground;—but nothing either good or bad, of *good* men that “won't work.” And we concluded, therefore, that the New Testament did not recognise that style of christian character at all.

Then we turned from the volume of Revelation to that of Nature, but here again we found the same truths taught us under other forms;—that bees which gather no honey, and trees that bear no fruit, and clouds that bring no rain, are regarded as anything but *good*; and that the great universal law of the animal and vegetable kingdoms is, *work, increase!*