

The Late Earl Shaftesbury.

AMONG the names most prominent in the ranks of Christian workers of England, that of the Earl of Shaftesbury has for fully half a century stood in the fore front.

Born on the 28th of April, 1801, the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury was almost as old as the present cen-

tury, and he had the satisfaction of looking back on more than fifty years of earnest philanthropic labour.

It is now fifty-eight years since Lord Ashley (his title at that time), at the enthusiastic age of twenty-five, first entered the House of Commons as the representative of Woodstock. Lord Ashley retained his place in the House of Commons for four years. From the outset he espoused the cause of the working-men, and in 1833 he introduced the Ten Hours' Bill. Yet the vic-

torious warfare of that movement could not be said to have reached its final stage until July 9, 1874, when Lord Shaftesbury spoke in the House of Lords on the second reading of the Factories Bill. In recognition of these efforts on behalf of factory operatives, the late Countess of Shaftesbury was presented with a bust of her husband on the 6th of August, 1859, when some 7,000 persons belonging to the Manchester manufacturing district actually kissed their benefactor's

hands. A quarter of a century before, her ladyship had consented to bear the domestic discomfort which the Earl's leadership of such a crusade would entail. "Go on, for God has called you to it," were her words, and she lived to see the day of victory.

But the Earl's mission has been a many-sided one, his influence having extended to all races in all quarters of the globe; but into no work has he entered with more devoted energy than that which had for its

aim the salvation of children and the enlightenment of their elders. From 1846 till his death he acted as the President of the Ragged School Union.

But his efforts were not confined to this department of philanthropy. The Shoeblock Brigade, the Reformatory and Refuge Union, the improvement of lodging houses, the Costermongers, and numberless other charitable organizations were the outgrowth of his energy or were founded with his hearty co-

operation. He was also identified with all the leading religious movements of the past half century. The Bible Society, Tract Society, Missions, London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews, the Y. M. C. A., and the London City Mission, have been under his presidency for years, and in fact the deceased nobleman had in a general way extended his patronage or encouragement to nearly every genuine Christian work in the country which had sought for it. More

