

lic in the "Ragged School Union Magazine." But the idea did not commend itself to others, and, to Rob Roy's disappointment, "not one solitary word came hack of cheer or encouragement." Lord Shaftesbury, however, heard of the scheme, and encouraged them to persevere. The rest of the story is best given in Rob Roy's own words:—

"Five boys were ready, and on March 31, 1851, in their red jersey uniforms they began their work. I watched one, and was very anxious to see whether anybody would employ him; and glad indeed was I to observe a good honest Englishman approach the little fellow and place his great boot on the top of his box. The boy touched his cap and set to work . . . soon the other boot was finished, the man paid his penny. Another and another, came, paid and went, and our red jackets that day obtained a footing in London.

"Their numbers rapidly increased, and their gains during the Exhibition of 1851 amounted to £500. They assembled every morning in the Society's rooms, near Charing Cross, for prayers before going to their work. It was arranged that the earnings of the boys were to be brought in and divided, so that a portion should be devoted to their daily necessities and a part put into the savings bank to start them in some trade, or help them in the Colonies. In this way many thousand lads were started in life without coming on the charity of the public. The great majority of them have done well and many of them have risen to important posts and positions of trust. And now what has the work grown to? The Shoe black Brigade has become a national institution. No less than six thousand two hundred boys have been trained and started in honest callings, and their earnings as shoeblacks in the course of years have amounted to the amazing sum of seventy-five thousand eight hundred pounds. The present income of shoeblacks in London is

stated at £1,000 a month. We venture to ask, has any Socialist orator or Agnostic friend of humanity been able to bring to the poor of London so splendid a benefit? Has any one of them thought of a plan for transferring £75,000 from the pockets of the rich and thus providing for the wants of the poor without in the slightest degree diminishing their self-respect? Yet this was done by those three young lawyers going forth on the old evangelical lines, for, says Rob Roy, "From the first the project began with prayer." —*Montreal Witness*.

EPISTOLARY SCISSORINGS.

If Friends were more zealous—if they would put away their pride and the fear of being accounted singular, and would meet together in the simplicity and solemnity of hearts and minds desiring to know of the dear Father what he would have them do, I believe they would not only find their own spiritual strength renewed and growing vigorous, but many an honest enquirer would be added to their number.

Because the principles and testimonies for which the forefathers of the Society suffered so much persecution are fast being acknowledged by those who were once their enemies, is no reason why we should grow lukewarm and feel that our mission is about accomplished. But we should be united, and earnestly stand together in the liberty and freedom which the truth gives, letting the light—by which we profess to walk—shine, to the enlightenment and comfort of all over whom we may wield an influence.

Our semi-annual meetings are to the church here, what half-yearly meetings are to you. All go to have a feast, and to claim the promise that "Where two or three are gathered together in His name," Christ is there, living and working in their hearts, just the same as in