

ness. But perhaps the most persevering and successful efforts were those made by Lord Ashley (afterwards the Earl of Shaftesbury) and his devoted band of workers, who went down to seek the lost, following the steps of the Good Shepherd. The life and soul of that band was "Rob Roy," as he was now commonly called. Many doors were now open to him for success in his profession; the road to wealth lay before him, but he had no time to enrich himself—he worked for others. His lectures were crowded, his books of travel so popular that one went through thirteen editions; but while living simply on his own modest income, he freely poured out all his gains for the good of others. By his lectures alone, Rob Roy realized ten thousand pounds in the course of years, all of which were devoted to religious or philanthropic objects. His was no capricious philanthropy skimming the surface of the evil, or patronizing the poor. Many a day was spent by him in the Ragged School, and many a night found him in the Field Lane Refuge for the homeless. Even in his holiday excursions he was pondering the problems forced on him there. Thus he writes in the "Voyage in the 'Rob Roy' Yawl" :—

"When the 'Rob Roy' sailed away from England we had left much that is good and great but we had also left behind us some terrible sights for an Englishman to see in his country, her crowded squalid hovels, her ignorant sottish poor."

He speaks of "the question racking our heartstrings. What can I do to better all this?" Again :—

"Every man of us is bound by humanity, patriotism and Christianity to do something, not that only, but much, to help the poor wretched English 'Arab' child. The duty is for each of us, and one day—not so far off either—we must separately answer for it. 'We live in a crowd but we die alone.'"

Some of the measures planned and

carried out by Lord Shaftesbury and his band of workers affected the well-being of thousands, though the attention of the world was never drawn to them. Such an Act of Parliament passed by their exertions for the Inspection and Regulation of Common Lodging-houses. Those houses were a disgrace to our civilization, human beings were crowded like cattle, and their sanitary condition was loathsome beyond belief. Lord Shaftesbury and Rob Roy never rested till that state of matters was improved. Those regulations may not now be always fully enforced, but there is no lack of power to deal with the evil.

But their most hopeful and successful efforts were for the young, in establishing the Ragged Schools, Training Ships, Industrial Homes, and in encouraging emigration. Lord Shaftesbury always acknowledged that it was to John Macgregor's practical sagacity that the suggestion of the "Shoe-black Brigade" was due—a scheme which has opened a door of hope and help for honest but destitute lads all over Europe and America.

The question that now faced them in the Ragged Schools was one full of difficulty. Numberless lads came on their hands to be provided for, and for those there seemed to be no place in the great city. Without characters they could not be trusted as message boys. There were already too many "timber merchants," as the little match-sellers called themselves, and the gains of crossing-sweepers were too uncertain to be trusted. But the command came as of old, "Give ye them to eat," and with the command came power.

It was in 1851 that John Macgregor first thought out this plan for meeting the difficulty, and he proposed it to his two friends, Mr. Snape and Mr. Fowler, young barristers who were, like himself, Ragged School teachers. The three friends each agreed to give ten shillings to the experiment, and a short appeal was at once made to the pub-