



THE GOOD COBBLER OF PORTSMOUTH.

HOW thankful should our young readers be for the blessings of education and for the privilege they enjoy of attending the Sabbath School, and other means of religious instruction! There are thousands of boys and girls, particularly in our large towns, who are so poor, and so much neglected, as to have no means of enjoying these privileges. At least this was the case not very long ago, but now the means of instruction are more easily obtained, and there are many kind persons who find out these neglected children, and labour to bring them to live honest, sober, and useful lives. They teach them in those schools, called "Ragged Schools," established expressly for poor and outcast young people, to read the Bible, to pray to God, and to look to Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

We are going to tell you about one of the first of these Ragged Schools. It was kept in the town of Portsmouth in England by John Pounds, a poor man, and a cobbler by trade. His house was a small wooden one, in a humble street in the town. He was a cripple, and, though he worked hard, he could not make much of a living. To add to his trials, he had the