

6 *BETTER LIVES FOR COMMON PEOPLE.*

belonged to him. While others had been striving to do their best in the world for God and man, they had been polishing their respective niches, and adding to the harmony of the whole, but he had been discontented and had not improved his opportunities, and upon him rested the responsibility of making the palace perfect. This is a picture of the condition of some Christians, who waste their time brooding over their lowly station and few opportunities, instead of making the most of what they have, and fitting themselves for greater things. Only by making a wise use of the present will the future grow in strength and splendor. It may be difficult for you to live in obscurity, plodding on from day to day at your accustomed task. It is easier to dream of doing great things, and to yearn after some fine opportunity of blessing the world with a master-stroke of goodness. It is hard to stand in the rear waiting for promotion, but that is the place to begin. The lowest step is always the safest to begin life, and the method of exaltation in the world and in the service of God is step by step. Saints are not made in a day. God makes men as He makes trees, by daily progress in faithful service, growing quietly and surely through being joined to Him,