

## LIFE WORK.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE MISSING LINK.

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Those who have perused the Bible and its Story, and the Missing Link, will hail with pleasure this Volume. It is by the same author, and though it wears a different name from its predecessor, it is filled with information of a similar kind in connection with the great work now being carried on in London by the Bible Women. The work itself is new in modern days, and the way in which the narrative of the work is given is about as new. It is substantially a "Report," but as different as day and night from the cold, formal, repelling reports that so many societies go to the trouble of publishing annually, but which nobody thinks of reading. It is the production of a clear and practical mind, influenced by a large heart swelling over with love to God and man.

We wish it a wide circulation, and pray that it may be instrumental in the Lord's hands in calling into being the Bible Woman's Missions in all lands.

We have marked a few passages that are suggestive of reflections.

"The Charities of London are its curse." "Ten years ago such a saying would have been execrated, and yet the last decade of observation and experience has turned a stream as of electric light on facts which prove that in the districts where most alms are given, the population is the most demoralized; mere relief of an ephemeral character makes way for future petitions."

This has long been known to reading, observing, and philanthropic men, but it is not so well understood by the generality of men as it ought to be. Gratuities favour indolence, increase the luxury of begging, and favour the progress of vice, and yet men are ready to give these plausible and bare-faced

mendicants, from no higher consideration than that they wish them to move on and not be troublesome. This is often no kindness to the receiver. There are few who beg who cannot do something towards their own support. If they can do anything they ought to be encouraged, and helped to do what they can. They should endeavour to carry their own burdens. They may not be able to carry it all themselves, and in these cases we should put our shoulder to the weight and assist them. But if they will not work neither should they eat. All practical sympathy is thrown away, and the generous tendencies of the philanthropists towards the well-disposed, are dwarfed by the manifest unworthiness of the objects of their mistaken benevolence.

## 2.

"The book is listened to, often where human systems of worship are rejected." p. 58. A man whom his wife had represented as an infidel, said, on being asked to come to the mission room on Sunday evening, "I am so tired of hearing people talk about religion, I hate the very name of it; but if it is only the Bible that is your religion, I will come and gladly too."

The distinctive characteristic of this mission is that it is undenominational.—The labourers in connection with it seem to belong to one or other of the different denominations of Evangelical Christians, but in this work they endeavour to confine themselves to the great and glorious truths which they all agree in holding, rather than in advancing those special views on which they differ. Hence neither the creed nor any other confession of faith is their text book. Their bond of union is the good English Bible. It they receive as the word of God. It is sufficiently clear and definite on all the important truths necessary for salvation, and when these devoted labourers go into the streets and the lanes, not to make proselytes to