

made the principal object kept in view, the last hour of the meeting is devoted to the sale, at *cost price*, of good materials previously purchased at *wholesale prices*, allowing the mothers to pay for them by instalments, as they are able, and it is only justice to add that we are very seldom obliged to ask for it. Oftener indeed are we called on to give them a word of encouragement, when expressing their regret at not being able "to bring something to-day." In many cases when more than a year has elapsed without payment, owing to sickness and trouble having visited their dwellings, it has been brought faithfully at the end of that time with a smile and hearty thanks. Thus the plan of operations that has been pursued has enabled many a poor woman to *purchase* warm clothing for herself, husband or son, without subjecting her to the degradation of *asking or receiving charity*. Anything calculated to hurt or destroy a proper spirit of self-reliance and independence has been carefully avoided. We have only extended to them a friendly hand: "helping them to help themselves."

With regard to our Bible Women, they have continued their labors through the year; and, in their discharge of the onerous duties entrusted to them, have proved themselves worthy of our full and entire confidence. Quiet and unobtrusive as their efforts are, they are gradually bringing to light the festering mass of ignorance, misery and vice that exists in the lanes, yards, and alleys of this city; and as they go from house to house, are compelled to witness scenes which abundantly prove the crying need for an agency such as that of "the missing link."

The Bible Woman's mission is one which, to be successful, requires the exercise of peculiar tact and discretion. With the wisdom of the serpent she is called to combine the harmlessness of the dove; and though to be faithful to her trust, she must be faithful in reproving the many forms of vice that come under her notice in her intercourse with the poor, yet she continually feels the necessity of "speaking the truth in love," lest by any undue harshness, any want of sympathy for their trials and temptations, she should stir up their prejudices, and thus shut many doors of usefulness which would be thrown wide open to one possessing their unreserved and unsuspecting confidence. In this respect both Eliza Ransom and