

THE SALVATION ARMY.

BY THE REV. THOMAS HARRIS.

AN ancient orator said, "That because he was a citizen of the world, therefore he was interested in everything that concerned the human race." With much greater reason may every Christian philanthropist say, that in all things which tend to the elevation and salvation of mankind he is profoundly interested. All who possess in any measure the spirit of Jesus—all who partake, in the slightest degree, the yearning pity for mankind that characterized the apostles—must hail with gladness, and devout thankfulness, any organization or enterprise whose design is to uplift and bless our fellow-men. Surely all will admit the great necessity for extraordinary efforts to be employed by the Church of Christ for the evangelization of the world. What is the condition of the masses to-day in professedly Christian lands? All who have studied the matter are compelled to confess that irreligion and godliness abound to an alarming extent. This is true, whether our examination is directed to crowded cities or to thinly peopled districts. The writer, years ago, spent several months in visiting one of the most depraved districts of London, England;—in whose narrow alleys, and courts, and lanes were found a miscellaneous and crowded population, dwelling in the meanest, and in many instances the most wretched abodes, breathing air highly pestiferous, and whose surroundings were calculated to sink them lower and lower in the scale of humanity. In such places, often the resort of the vicious and law-defying, what scenes of immorality are perpetuated from day to day! Socialism, communism, atheism, licentiousness, blasphemy, drunkenness, and vice in every form there abound—like a loathsome disease in the body politic, whose virus spreads with increasingly direful effects from year to year. To stand beside the social abysses to be found in the great centres of population, even in those countries where religious institutions and Gospel ordinances have exerted their benign influences for ages, is enough to fill the soul with keenest anguish, and to enkindle within the breast feelings of profound alarm.