

WORK FOR THE PROSPEROUS.

THE men who plead occupation, unfitness, etc., as a reason for not giving time and personal attention to the poor, are the very men who most need the discipline of such a course. They are in prosperity, and need something to temper it; they are absorbed by their own cares, which seem to them heavier than anybody else's and sharper. They need to have their burdens lightened by knowing that *their* cares are often trifling in comparison with others. A man who is steadily going up in the world cannot afford to lose sympathetic acquaintance with men that are steadily going down. Our softness of ease, our luxuries, our scope and power of wealth, are as deadly enemies as can entrench the heart, unless we extract the fang of selfishness from them.

The change from kindness to selfishness is very insidious. Few men are aware of what is going on in them as they rise in life. Others see it. It passes into remark among those who know them. But few men have friends who are friends, that dare tell them their faults. Very few will tell the man, "You are growing much more imperious than you used to be; you are more difficult to approach; you carry yourself as if you felt your importance in the world." There are not many friends that will risk their peace by saying to a man, "You are more ostentatious, but less generous than you used to be. You may give away more money, but you shew less sympathy and kindness. You are more worldly. You are growing very selfish; and you spend twenty times as much upon yourself for the sake of effect, as you used to do ten years ago."

But all prosperous men need faithful friends. "Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the