

very quiet folk ; my husband might not like it. I will take the book and read it for myself.'

"Two years of great suffering followed, and during this period her husband had also been ill ; so that gradually, one by one, the comforts they had gathered round them, by a frugal life, vanished away under the gripe of want."

Thus, then (although the labours of others are also recorded,) may be regarded as the heroine of the book. "She received the offer of employment in selling Bibles, feeling that it was the work which, of all others, she should delight to undertake." Another letter is given, evincing the spirit in which she would commence her labours, and the beneficent results she expected from them ; we cannot resist giving the concluding paragraph.

"Indeed, sir, I feel I cannot write what I foresee, or tell you how my heart warms as I write it. It appears that God is graciously marking out a path for me, in which alone I am fit to labour. I know nothing of the customs and manners of the rich ; I could not undertake the most menial service in a gentleman's house ; but I can talk to the poor outcasts among whom I dwell ; my deepest sympathy is secured to them by the sad history of my own early days. I may help the poor untended wife and mother. I may send young children to school. I may have a word in season for the drunken and even the infidel husband. It will be a privilege for me to obtain admission to those miserable homes, and on what an errand ; with the Word of God ! To its Author I look to direct me to turn all my opportunities to His glory ! I cast myself upon His almighty power to aid me, and I will fear no evil. Accept my thanks for this fresh proof of your kindness, and I beg to be remembered in your prayers.—Your deeply obliged servant,  
MARIAN."

Although she sometimes met with rudeness, it must be stated, to the credit of the miserable dwellers in these dens, that she almost invariably received respectful treatment. As a specimen of the calm courage and Christian tact of Marian, we extract for our readers the following "scene :"—

"'Do not go up that stair,' said a city missionary, who met her on her way in Church Lane. 'The woman who lives there is not a woman—she is a fiend. It takes four men to carry her home when she is drunk.'

"'It is to such as her I go,' said the quiet visitor, and passed on.

"When she arrived at the stair-head, she heard the voice of a fury, and, tapping at the door, immediately entered. The fierce woman, a drover's wife, standing six feet high, was accustomed to keep her neighbours at a distance, and stared in amazement at Marian. A boy of nine years old, stood in the corner naked ; his mother had just been beating him, after cutting his poor trousers to ribbons, in search of a sixpence which she said he had stolen, having received it for sweeping a crossing.

"'Do not beat him any more,' said Marian. 'I daresay he will remember this. But what will you do with his trousers ? He cannot put them on again.' And, turning to the child, she added, 'A lady gave me a pair of trousers this morning ; but they were for a good boy, if I found him. Could you promise never to keep back the money any more from your mother, if I brought them to you ?'

"The offer was so timely, and the voice of kindness so unusual in that apartment, that it melted the child, and even touched the mother. An influence began from that day alike over mother and children. This woman had been very violent to Marian in the first weeks of her new vocation, threatening 'to trample her to pieces if she came canting into her court.'

"She now, however, began to subscribe for a Bible, to dress herself decently, and, with her two children, to be found in the gallery of the church of Old St. Giles's—the church in which she was married, but had never since set foot in. Her good friend watched her, unseen, in the shadow of one of the pillars, and scarcely recognised, in the tidy matron, the ferocious virago. She did not tell her she had seen her ; but the next morning, when paying her subscription, the woman said of her own accord, 'that she felt so much more comfortable, than when she had been to the gin-shop, that she should certainly go to church again.' She became one of the 'Bible-woman's' protectors in the notorious Church Lane."