

"First, that anywhere and everywhere we too 'may dwell with the King for His work.' We 'may be in a very unlikely or unfavorable place for this. It may be in a literal country life, with little 'enough to be seen of the 'goings of the King' around us; it may be among the hedges of all sorts, hindrances in all directions; it may be, furthermore, with our hands full of all manner of 'pottery for our daily task. No matter! The 'King who placed us there will be with us; the 'hedges are all right, or He would soon do away with them; and it does not follow that what 'seems to hinder our way may not be for its very protection; and as for the pottery, why that is just exactly what he has seen fit to put into our hands, and therefore, for the present, 'His work.'

"Secondly, that the dwelling and work must go together. If we are indeed dwelling with the 'King we shall be working for Him too, 'as we 'have opportunity.' The working will be as the 'dwelling: a regular, settled thing, whatever form it may take, at His appointment. Nor will His work ever be done when we are not dwelling with Him. It will be our own work then, and will not 'abide.'

But if, as Miss Havergal implies, this lesson practically concerns us all, let us glance at the different branches of "His work" which may be done by us where we dwell.

First, there is the "work of the service of the House of God." Where the King Himself has promised to be in the midst when we gather together, surely the least we can do is to keep everything there as neat and beautiful as possible. Needlework is always needed, in the shape of Altar vestments, hangings, linen, etc., especially in our country Churches; and then these are all to be cared for; and providing fresh flowers for each Sunday is a work of itself, for some one who has time for it. Nothing is more suitable for the adorning of God's house than these, which He Himself at the creation pronounced "good" when He looked on them. This is a labor of love, not too small to be reckoned as "kingly service," and accepted as such by the King.

Then there is very much to do for those to whom God has entrusted any musical talent. We read much in the Bible about "the service of song," and about those who ministered with singing; and any of us who serve in that way must see to it that we offer our *best*, and not just what will give us the least trouble. There are the regular practices to attend, which we know is not always an easy matter, and sometimes children's voices to be trained, music to be copied, or choral union work to be done.

Then there is always plenty to do in the Sunday Schools. More teachers wanted, more scholars to be hunted up; and teaching itself (most of all, perhaps) involves much study and hard work, besides faith and patience. We may feel our inability to do this work as well as we wish, but it is helpful to remember that though the instrument is not able the hand that holds it and guides it is.

There is in fact no gift or special talent lent us but what we may make highest use of. Many, with artistic tastes, do beautiful work for Church decorations, or for sale, towards some special object. We may not even leave out cooking, homely as we may deem this service; but it can most surely be used in many ways so as to come under the words of the King, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of one of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." With these words in our minds, too, we may find "one of the least of these" who is sick and may be visited, and if they wish it, read to or sung to, which many greatly appreciate.

Then there is the rather disagreeable work of collecting for the various objects towards which it is the duty of every parish to give.

Many of us who have neither much time or money to offer, can yet find time to do a certain amount of needlework, either for sale to go towards the needs of the Church, or to clothe the poor.

This may also seem commonplace work; but among all the good works which we are told Dorcas did, this kind of work is the only one recorded and left to us as an example. This work for the King is so well known among us that it only needs alluding to. From the days when the women who were wise hearted made fine linen for the Temple, to the present sewing circles, there have always been found women to offer willingly "the work of their hands."

If it seem but small work to us, the thought, "This is kingly service," will ennoble it, and make us want to do as well as we can our little part in helping towards that time when the King's daughter, "all glorious within," shall be "brought unto the King in raiment of needlework."

But whatever we have to offer, whether it be the work of our hands, or money, or any other gift, we must try to make it a willing offering, or we will not be among the kind of givers whom St. Paul says God loves.

It is only that we do not realize what this royal service is that it ever looks uninteresting to us. In the words of Bishop Medley, "The service of God is the only thing which makes life valuable; pleasure is vanity, business is weariness, ambition is disappointment." We feel this to be true in our own lives, and yet hesitate to take part in work which