

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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The Little Shoeblocks.

A FEW weeks ago we told our young readers a little about Lord Shaftesbury and his noble work in behalf of the poor and suffering. One noble movement with which his name is connected was the establishment of Ragged Schools. He had to labour for a great many years before he saw the good work fairly entered upon. In 1848 he pleaded the cause of poor little ragged children in Parliament until he stirred the people up to take an interest in them, and in a short time he and those who were working with him had got hold of 10,000 children in the Ragged Union Schools, and when he was

making a speech in 1883, he said:—"For thirty-nine years I have been President of this grand institution,



"THAT'S OUR LORD SHAFTESBURY."

in London. A little boy belonging to the Ragged School Shoeblock Brigade, and a younger companion

and I have not missed one anniversary." After dwelling on the necessity for the work, he added, "Did we not, during the balmy days of the ragged schools, pick up from the streets some 300,000 boys and girls, all of whom, if they had not been taken up, would have been found before long among the dangerous classes?" This army of children became good and industrious citizens, entering into trade and domestic service in England and the colonies. The Ragged School Union acknowledged their indebtedness to their President by presenting him with his portrait on his eightieth birthday in 1881.

Our picture represents a scene witnessed by a gentleman