

18 *BETTER LIVES FOR COMMON PEOPLE.*

large factory must keep a firm grip upon all the affairs of his establishment if he would succeed, and Christian work is the law of spiritual life and prosperity and of growth of character. In the workshop of the world, God is the silent partner. He furnishes all the capital and all the ideas, and whatever success you may win in blessing men, the honor and glory must be given to Him, without whose help you could not accomplish anything. In the work of personal holiness He is the silent partner. You have no power to make yourself holy. A long pilgrimage to a famous shrine will not remove your sins. You may be an expert in the forms and ceremonies of religion, but skill in and devotion to rites will not purify your heart. Tears may wash the face but not the soul. The work of personal sanctification lies in the use of the means God has given you for your growth in spiritual things when they lead you to Himself. It is God Himself who makes you holy. The Holy Spirit places His gifts at your feet that you may look at them, and then be drawn to ask them. He puts the priceless treasures of Christ within your reach. The Spirit opens a great palace of treasures, and invites you to enter and take the best gifts in store. If you watch the painter making designs upon a porcelain cup,