

**LABOURERS IN THE
VINEYARD: DIORAMIC
SCENES IN THE LIVES
OF EMINENT CHRISTIANS**

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Labourers in the Vineyard: Dioramic Scenes in the lives of Eminent Christians by Matilda Horsburgh

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MATILDA HORSBURGH

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Page 143.

THE CHRISTIAN SAILOR.

Labourers in the Vineyard:

DIORAMIC SCENES

IN

THE LIVES OF EMINENT CHRISTIANS.

By M. H.,

AUTHOR OF

"THE STORY OF A RED VELVET BIBLE," "NOTHING TO DO," ETC.

With a Recommendatory Preface,

BY

THE REV. A. K. H. BOYD, B.A.,

MINISTER OF ST BERNARD'S, EDINBURGH.

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PREFACE.

It is the purpose of this Volume to enforce and illustrate the great truth, that religion should be carried into all the details of daily life; and that Christian grace may eminently flourish in any lawful worldly calling. And as, to most minds, facts are more interesting and convincing than abstract reasonings, great part of the work has been given to delineating a specimen of a truly Christian man in each of the more marked walks of life. No argument to prove that a soldier, a statesman, or a physician, need find nothing in his profession inconsistent with the maintenance of a devout spirit, will be so generally satisfactory, or so practically useful, as the telling us the story of a man who, in one of these vocations, has actually succeeded in maintaining a devout spirit; and of his special helps and hindrances.

It is a happy sign of the present time, that such thoughts are so often set forth in all religious teaching. It is, of course, nothing new; but it is an old truth of which we need to be reminded, that a sharp separation of human employments into secular and sacred is an entire mistake; and that all human work is secular or is sacred just according to the spirit in which it is gone through. It is Platonism rather than Christianity, to hold that there is anything necessarily debasing or materializing about the duties and the cares of daily life. All these duties and cares take their character from the spirit in which we pass through them. The simple French monk, five hundred years since, who acted as cook to his brethren, indicated the Christian's true path when he wrote, "I put my little egg-cake on the fire for the sake of Christ." And the saintly Herbert, more gracefully, has shown how, as the eye may either look *on* glass, or look *through* it, we may look no farther than the daily task, or may look through it to something nobler beyond.

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see;
And what I do is anything,
To do it as for Thee.

PREFACE.

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A servant with this clause,
Makes drudgery divine :
Who sweeps a room, as for Thy laws,
Makes that, and the action, fine.

For several years, the author of this Volume has been quite withdrawn by ill health from the common occupations and enjoyments of life. And she has felt, more deeply than almost any other, the trial that thus she has been cut off from that Christian usefulness to which it would have been her happiness to devote much of her strength and time. Of late, a much-valued opportunity of doing good has been permitted to the author, through the large circulation which has been attained by two little volumes which have preceded the present. These are characterised by serious thought, set forth in a very pleasing style ; and by a spirit which is earnest without being severe or gloomy. And these pages, written amid much weariness and suffering, are now published, as the humble offering to the Good Cause of one who can help it in hardly any other way.

A. K. H. B.

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TO MY READERS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS, I purpose in these Dioramas (the Pictures of which are painted with words) to bring before you events in the lives of some good and great men and women; to show you, that in every profession God can be glorified, that in all places and circumstances the faithful servant will find work to do in his Master's vineyard. May the blessing of God rest on my endeavours to make these Dioramas profitable to you.

“ Oh! though oft depressed and lonely,
All my fears are laid aside,
If I but remember only,
Such as *these* have lived and died.”

EDINBURGH, *January 1, 1863.*