

**CHEQUER ALLEY: A
STORY OF SUCCESSFUL
CHRISTIAN WORK**

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Chequer Alley: A Story of Successful Christian Work by Frederick W. Briggs

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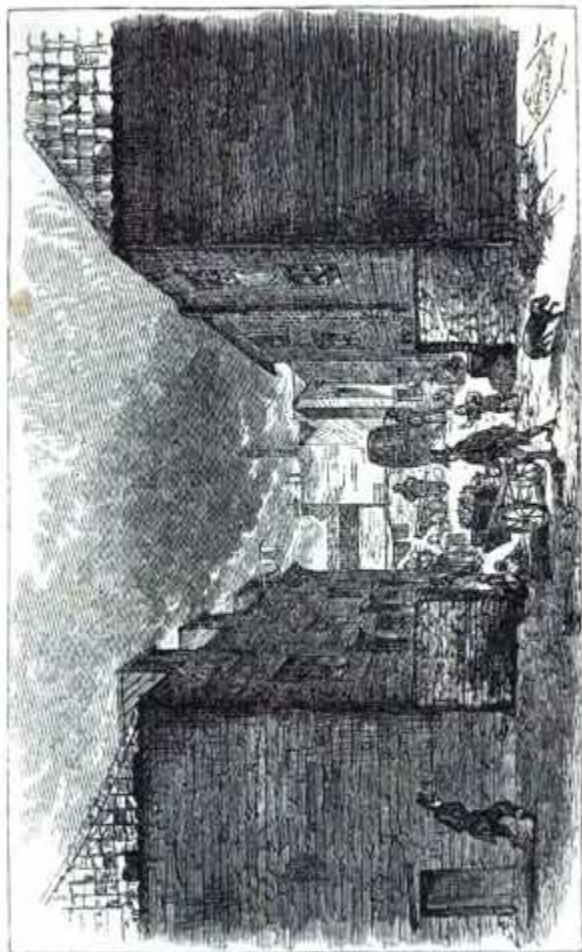
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FREDERICK W. BRIGGS

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CHRISTIAN WORK**



COW'S PLACE, CHEQUER ALLEY.
SITE FOR THE NEW SCHOOL-BUILDING.

CHEQUER ALLEY:
A Story
OF
SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN WORK.

BY THE
REV. FREDERICK W. BRIGGS.

With an Introduction
BY THE REV. WILLIAM ARTHUR, M.A.



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Introduction.

MY first knowledge of the neighbourhood of Chequer Alley was nearly thirty years ago, when a student at Hoxton. Not a few of my fellow-students, who then on Sunday mornings faced the rough groups in Whitecross Street, have passed to "that city so holy and clean," where the contrast of place and inhabitants will not diminish the beauty of their position when they stood amid those depraved and ill-clad gatherings.

Subsequently, when in the City Road Circuit, it was my pleasure to watch some of Miss Macarthy's early labours. Already, she had been enabled to find an entrance into the Alley, open a Room, and gather a congregation for the Local Preachers, who gladly went to preach to them. In what strange circumstances, with what exceptional incidents, and under what

rude discouragements this beginning was made, the succeeding narrative will show. But, from the time when the first hymn was interlarded with "snatches of old songs" up to this hour, an unbroken series of Christian services have brought warning, light, and blessing to those "harlots, and publicans, and thieves."

I well remember when the Rev. John Scott, after full inquiry, appointed Miss Macarthy Class Leader, that she might herself be the helper on their way of those twenty souls whose gathering in to the Lord is so well told. Up to the present time, some five hundred have enjoyed the benefit of her classes. How much happiness on the part of the Leader, of profit to the souls of the Members, of general benefit to their families and neighbours, and of joy in heaven, does not that one fact represent!

The relation of what has been done in Chequer Alley will, we cannot doubt, be made the means of leading some who dwell within reach of places equally depraved to attempt similar usefulness. They are sure to be met with equal, if not similar, hindrances. They will not succeed but by similar patience and tact, similar power of becoming one with the

people's right feelings, and yet ever leading them away from their vices, ever winning them to the knowledge of God and of His Christ. And if the seed there sown shall spring up, through this little book, in Meetings, Schools, Classes, and Congregations in the dark places of more than one of our large towns, the labours bestowed on the wretched and evil in that locality, blessed already, will then be doubly blessed.

W. A.



