

NED WRIGHT, THE STORY OF HIS LIFE

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Ned Wright, the Story of His Life by Edward Leach

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EDWARD LEACH

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THE STORY OF HIS LIFE.



LONDON:
HODDER AND STOUGHTON,
27, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCLXXXIII.

210. m. 359.

PREFACE.

NED WRIGHT'S life is altogether so remarkable as rarely to be paralleled. Its early part was marked by such strong tendencies to evil, and such confirmed habits of crime, as almost to forbid all hope of reformation, whilst the latter part—extending over ten years—has presented the widest possible contrast. Not only have evil propensities been curbed and criminal habits conquered, but the whole current of his strong and earnest nature has been turned into the channel of ceaseless effort for reclaiming the degraded and lost. His transformation, combined with his earnest and constant zeal to diffuse the glad tidings of the Gospel, whose happy influence he has himself experienced, is not less remarkable as a result of Divine power than the case of St. Paul, or Augustine, or Bunyan. Ned Wright, as he is,

contrasted with what he was, is a resistless proof of the truth and power of Christianity. His conversion has not been a solitary fact, without influence or Divine surroundings. His zeal has not been in vain, nor have his efforts been fruitless. Not only in the metropolis, but throughout the country, many have been arrested in their evil ways, awakened to solemn thought, and restored to God. Of this many striking instances will be found in the following "Story of his Life."

His sale of Bibles and other religious publications, the mission-rooms he has opened in several localities in London, his suppers and mothers' meetings, and a variety of other Christian agencies he has set on foot, have produced, and are still producing, results which cannot be too highly estimated, and which will be known in their full extent only on the great day of account.

Ned Wright's life is, moreover, not only remarkable for the moral and spiritual change effected by the Gospel, but for the intellectual transformation which has followed. At first, when reclaimed, he could barely read a few words in the New Testament, and

could only speak in broken and imperfect sentences. Now he can speak so as to command the attention, not only of the multitudes that gather to hear him, but of the cultured and educated. Further, as may be seen in "The Pilgrims' Hymn-Book," compiled by him, he writes hymns of which our best hymnologists might not be ashamed.*

To secure, therefore, for the remarkable Story of Ned Wright's Life a wider circulation, and wider usefulness, the publishers have deemed it advisable to issue this condensed and cheaper People's Edition.

Paternoster Row, June 21st, 1873.

* Specimen of hymns:—

- 1 'Twas love that moved Thy tender heart
From the delights of heaven to part,
And meet for me the tempter's dart.
Yes, Jesus *loved* me !
- 2 My sins for judgment loudly cried ;
Baptized in blood my Saviour died ;
Trusting in Him I'm justified.
Yes, Jesus *died* for me !
- 3 All hell, the world, and flesh unite
Against the Christ of God to fight,
But could not stay His upward flight.
Yes, Jesus *rose* for me !
- 4 With holy hands before the throne,
And sprinkled blood, He doth atone
For daily faults to which I'm prone.
Yes, Jesus *lives* for me !

5 The day will come, and may be near,
When deck'd with glory He'll appear,
To take me home, and banish fear.
Yes, Jesus *comes for me* !

6 Hail ! happy moment, longed-for prize !
Begone, vain world ! my soul, arise :
" Well done ! " awaits me in the skies.
Yes, Jesus *welcomes me* !