

**GOD'S CHOSEN FAST: OR,
WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR
OUR POORER BRETHREN IN
THE WYND'S AND CLOSES?**

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God's Chosen Fast: Or, What Shall We Do for Our Poorer Brethren in the Wynds and Closes?
by James Peddie

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JAMES PEDDIE

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OR,

WHAT SHALL WE DO

FOR OUR POORER BRETHERN IN THE WYNDY AND CLOSES?

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?—Isaiah lviii. 6, 7.

And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answered and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.—Luke iii. 10, 11.

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P R E F A C E.

No one possessed of common feeling, apart from Christian love, could witness the physical, moral, and spiritual degradation with which my duties have brought me into contact, for a number of years, without a strong desire to do what in him lay for its removal and prevention.

The following pages, written in the intervals of more immediate duties, are now published in the hope of inducing some who have not hitherto taken much interest in the condition of the people, to examine into their state, and settle for themselves these important questions—Are these things so? and Why is it thus?

My first idea was to record a number of the more striking cases which came under my own observation, exhibiting the various shades of low life in Edinburgh, more especially in the Canongate, where my sphere of labour has been cast. That design has been in some measure departed from, because there must have been a great similarity in the cases cited. Besides, that course would have led me into the too prevalent error of dealing chiefly with effects, without giving due prominence to the producing causes and remedies.

I have, therefore, introduced arguments, opinions, and suggestions more fully than I had originally intended. Some of these may be considered ill-founded or chimerical, but still it is hoped that, by the blessing of God, others may thereby be prompted to concoct and put in execution some more efficient plans for mitigating and finally removing the burdens of ignorance, poverty, and vice, which are pressing so many down to temporal and eternal ruin. That this may be the result is the earnest prayer of the Author,

JAMES PEDDIE,

36 *Norton Place, Edinburgh, 1860.*

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