

of procuring employment. The mode of relief adopted since its organization has been chiefly confined to the supply of fuel, and occasional pecuniary aid. Soup also was distributed during the two last winters, and a committee was appointed for distinguishing such poor persons as were capable of performing work from the helpless, and for devising plans for their useful employment.

All these measures originate in the general committee, who have authority to vary, from time to time, the mode of relief administered, according as the necessities of the poor may seem to demand; and to direct the benevolent exertions of the society in such manner as may appear to promise the most extensive benefit.

To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, to feed the hungry and to clothe the naked, are duties of too strong a moral claim, to be innocently dispensed with on the ground of any speculative reasoning or notion of political advantage:—It is indeed highly desirable, that while the stewards of the Bounties of Providence are employed in ministering to the necessities of their fellow men, their labours should be directed by a spirit of wisdom and discrimination;—that while the bodily wants of the poor are supplied, their moral improvement may not be overlooked; and especially that the relief afforded be not converted into the means of indolence or vice. A truly enlightened policy appears to be to neglect neither of these considerations in the too eager pursuit of the other; and on this basis the Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society has been established. Sensible that no argument could relieve a community from the reproach, that any of its members should actually be enduring the miseries of extreme and abject poverty, and perhaps even perishing in this condition, while not a few individuals are surrounded with all the superfluities of wealth and plenty, this society directs its chief attention to the discovery of all such objects of misery, and carefully guards against abuse and misrepresentations, by a personal investigation, through its officers, into the actual circumstances attending every instance of want which falls within the scope of the relief contemplated.

To this society, so organized—ready at all times gladly to receive hints that may tend to improvement—treading with wariness and caution the steps marked out for its immediate progress; and bearing the honorable stamp of the blessings it has already shed around, during the period of its past labours, to recommend it to a favourable reception in future; and, perhaps, it may truly be added, with as few errors or mistakes to sully that reputation, as may belong to any institution of human origin; to such a society as this, do its committee earnestly solicit the consideration and support of the generous inhabitants of Halifax, and all persons of benevolent and sympathizing dispositions.

The usual motives which are urged in favour of alms-giving are so well known, and so generally acknowledged, that it is thought unnecessary to repeat here a theme that may appear hackneyed—nor do the Committee feel themselves called upon to refute objections that are often murmured against the practice of distributing to the necessities of the poor, and still less such as are directly levelled against this