

esoterically extracted from Him, and exoterically published at second hand; but to be communicated in Him to the

very soul, through a constant reflection and exhibition of the Living Christ.

LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

The Problem of Poverty and Pauperism.

Pauperism dishonors a free State.—ROBESPIERRE.

Whosoever stoppeth his ear at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.—Prov. xxi: 13.

We consider these two topics together, because they are intimately related, if not essentially one. The method of dealing with the one is vital in its influence on the other. There is such a thing as nursing poverty into pauperism; and it has been practiced from time immemorial in London, New York, and other large cities, where the poor do congregate. To deal out charity in a public, general, indiscriminate way, as is usually done, is to make paupers on a grand scale.

PAUPERISM IN OUR CITIES.

Pauperism is everywhere connected with the growth of cities, and hence is on the increase. For the tendency of the times is to concentrate in cities. In 1800 only 4 per cent. of the population of the United States lived in cities; in 1880 twenty-two and one-half per cent. Fifty-three per cent. of the population of Massachusetts reside in her cities. Thirteen cities in the State show an aggregate growth of 72 per cent. in 10 years, while the population of the State has grown but 22 per cent. If in any of these cities the growth of population has not become the measure of the city's growth in pauperism, it is only because broader areas have for the time postponed the close packing of the population; but we are rapidly approaching the foreign standard. New York is reported as possessing the most thickly-settled district on the face of the globe. Massachusetts has, with the exception of Rhode Island, the densest population of the States; and more than one-third of its inhabitants are already packed into an area measured by a radius of twelve miles from the State House!

The growth of pauperism in recent years may be graphically seen in the following table, compiled from the annual returns of the Massachusetts State Board of Charities.*

Years.	Whole No. of Poor, including Vagrants, supported and relieved by Towns.	Population of the State.	Total Expense as reported.	No. of Persons received every 1000 of Population.	Cost to each Man, Woman and Child in the State.
1855	18,227	1,132,369	\$437,661	16	39 cts.
1860	34,314	1,231,066	545,245	28	44 "
1865	45,000	1,267,030	610,729	36	48 "
1870	64,870	1,437,351	854,609	45	59 "
1875	200,545	1,631,912	1,172,416	121	79 "
1880		1,783,085	1,332,902	—	75 "

This table, inasmuch as it includes "vagrants," is of value only as indicating roughly a ratio of growth, not as giving the actual number of paupers, properly so called. It is sufficient, however, to reveal a steady increase of the pauper evil. The State Board of Charities estimates that there are about 25,000, permanent paupers in the State, or one to every 78 of the population.

The effect of out-door relief is a radical element in this problem. In 1821 Mr. Josiah Quincy, in a report to the Legislature of Massachusetts on pauperism, said, as the result of his investigations: "That of all the modes of providing for the poor, the most wasteful, the most expensive, and most injurious to their morals and destructive of their industrious habits, is that of supply in their own families." In 1871 the State Board of Charities addressed a series of questions on the subject to all the towns of the State, gathering in response the most complete exhibit as yet made. While recognizing out-door relief as seemingly necessary in the present state of public sentiment, the returns showed conclusively that "the tendency is to make those once receiving it apply

* We are indebted for these facts and tables to an admirable paper in the *Andover Review* (Feb.) by Rev. Henry A. Stimson.