

needs of our fellow men outside. And certainly, it was reserved for Christianity to expand and illustrate the duty of philanthropy to the fullest extent. Christianity has elevated all the natural virtues to a higher platform, and has shown some to be graces which were despised in heathen times. Humility was unknown as a grace by the old Gentile world. Rather was it thought unworthy of a free born citizen. Even family life was not the beautiful picture which it presents, when hallowed by Christian faith and Christian example and practice. And, outside the boundary line of home and of friends, no one in the days of heathendom gave heed to the wants and sorrows of others. There were no hospitals, asylums, refuges, orphanages, in those old, cruel and sensual days. The spirit of the good Samaritan did not as a fact exist, and the claims of suffering man, irrespective of creed, nationality and social station, touched no responsive chord in the human heart. How unlike, how radically dissimilar this former selfish indifference, to the motive power of such a society as this, which thrives as it deserves to do, and which helps those of English extraction, who require assistance, with large minded comprehensiveness. Therein it displays the true and active benevolence of the good Samaritan. He must have known at a glance to what nation belonged the wounded man, stripped and injured, whose life was ebbing away. He did not reflect that very likely, if he were in a similar plight, he would be left by a Jew, to die uncared for and unattended. He only saw a fellow creature in trouble. That was enough for him. That mute appeal for compassion and help moved his heart at once, and regardless of personal consequences, he not only provided for the needs of an enemy of his nation, at the time, but with unselfish forethought, made provision for his after necessities. He truly was his brother's keeper. A more perfectly beautiful human example of real charity cannot be found in the history of man. In a humble way, our Society follows such an example, and in so doing, offers a slight reflection of the goodness of the Almighty, who supplies even sinners with the blessings of this natural world, His glorious Sun and fertilizing rain. Now, as I have shewn, charity in the Christian, and indeed truly human, sense of the word, was practically unknown in heathen days, also, as a fact, there was no exact word in classical Greek and Latin answering to the idea. And this is not a matter of surprise, for a word or name