

opinion the prospect of suffering among the poor previously to the opening of the ensuing spring, is by no means small; and as the contributions to the Society have been rapidly declining, they leave it with the present meeting of its members and friends to say, whether the poor of our community shall experience an alleviation of their distresses through the medium and by the renewed exertions of this Society, or be doomed to receive their more scanty pittance from the uncertain hand of private charity: but as an appeal to the charitable feelings of the inhabitants of Halifax, for the removal of wretchedness and misery has never yet been forced back upon the applicant with cold indifference, your Committee would be the last to suppose that those high, those noble, those exalted and refined sensibilities of our nature, which so sympathetically respond to the calls of poverty and affliction, can cease to act at a period like the present of more than ordinary excitement.

Under these impressions, your Committee think it unnecessary to say much in favor of a cause which is in itself so powerful, that, when permitted to speak out, it insinuates a glowing influence into the coldest recesses of the most torpid and unfeeling bosom. Is not the object of this Society to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to enliven the gloom, cheer the sorrow, and ease the pain of the afflicted; and to soften the pillows of the dying? You know it is. And are not the objects of the Society's solicitude, men? Are they not human beings, partakers of our common nature? They are: and as such susceptible of the kindness of our sympathy, as well as the bitterness of our neglect. As such, our hearts and our hands should ever be open towards the supply of their necessities. But they have claims upon us arising from higher motives than those of mere humanity. Do we not assume to ourselves the name and profession of Christians? Let it then not be forgotten by us, that this question was once asked by a venerable Apostle:—

“Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”

To those who are only waiting a call upon their benevolence, enough has been already said: but to those who are wavering between duty and inclination, the words of St. James are most forcibly addressed.—“If a brother or sister be naked or destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Be ye warmed, and be ye filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful; what doth it profit?” To such your Committee would hold up the example of the good Samaritan, in his conduct towards the man, who, in going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, fell among thieves; and conclude by saying, in the words of our blessed Saviour,—“Go thou, and do likewise.”