

those who are too poor, too helpless to make known their wants, and we ask for help for those who pine in darkness in our sunlit land. We do not advocate the cause of restless agitators or discontented clamorers for charity, but we entreat those who have the power to help to lighten the sorrows of our blind friends, to give them intellectual and mental light, that they may see sources of happiness of which they never dreamed.

POMPEII.

PART II.

[The Excavated "City of the Dead."]

It is remarkable that before the Christian era, from the remotest period of which we have any tradition, Vesuvius would seem to have been entirely inactive. There is no record of any irruption having occurred previous to that in which Pompeii perished; and no suspicion was at the time entertained of the terrific forces which were imprisoned in the interior of the mountain. It is true the region around Naples and some of the neighbouring islands were known to be of volcanic character: and tradition handed down stories of igneous exhalations in the islands of Ischia and Procida, at the entrance of the Bay of Naples, by which Greek colonists who settled there, two or three centuries before the Christian era, had been compelled to fly. Traces of volcanic action were visible at several points all over this region; but the security enjoyed had been so long and unbroken, that no suspicion was entertained that the tranquility of the lovely, fertile district would ever be disturbed, or that the extinguished fires would be re-kindled. These numerous traces of former volcanic action led the ancients to name the region around the shores of Naples, the Phlegræii Campii or Burnt Fields; and they accounted for the traces of igneous action by the fabled battle between the giants and the gods, in which the former were cast down and destroyed by the thunderbolts of Jupiter. The scathed thunder-riven region, it was believed, bore enduring evidence of the power of these celestial bolts. One of the conquered giants named Typhon, who threw stones to Heaven with a loud noise, and from whose eyes