

This description comprehends the grievous sum of accidents to which mortality is exposed; the undistinguishing devastations of fire; the fury of the whelming wave; the sudden death of the heads of families, with the first miseries of the widow and the orphan; deep distress of various sorts, arising from contingencies not easily to be enumerated; in a word, all that softens the heart of flesh within us, and forces the sympathy of kindred natures.

At the same time it is not to be doubted but that the exigencies of your own members will command (and it is fit they should) your first attention. It may likewise be believed, that to the aged and the desolate of your country you will not always be able to refuse an occasional assistance. To your credit, your books have uniformly exhibited pensioners of this description; nor is it intended, by any thing now offered, to discountenance the humane and generous spirit. To your candour and wisdom it is only submitted, whether it might not be proper to dispense such aids with as frugal a hand as possible, that you may have it in your power to meet deeper distress and stronger calls for compassion, with that liberality which you are known to possess, and to instances of which he who now addresses you can, during the period of his ministry, abundantly testify.

2dly. This Society has long been, and may still be, eminently useful, in two of the most trying periods of our condition; in the hour of sickness and in the article of death.

In the fluctuations and uncertainties of an infant settlement and a sea-port town, the anguish of disease and the visitations of mortality, come attended with circumstances of peculiar aggravation. Here multitudes are met, from the various countries of Europe and America, without previous habitudes of intimacy or connection. Their residence is precarious, their union imperfect. They live in a moving scene, and do not continue long in one stay. In such circumstances solid attachment and real friendship must be extremely rare. But they are equally needful in every region of the globe. Sickness and decay follow us to the ends of the earth, and wherever they overtake us, sympathy and compassion are inestimable.

LITTLE do they know the lot of the emigrant, who, amidst native scenes, contemplate it through the medium of their own sufferings, real or imaginary. While at the distance of a wide extended ocean, under the incumbrance, it may be, of a family, and the embarrassments of debt, the parent.