

The winter which is now upon us is likely to be as hard, if not harder, than any of its immediate predecessors, but the officers of the Board are satisfied that in the presence of so gloomy a prospect, the free will offerings of a benevolent community will aid them in their labors, as liberally and generously in the present emergency as it has invariably done in past years.

It is scarcely necessary to explain the great and leading object which the Association has in view, and which it has all along endeavoured to carry out systematically. That has been done in nearly every one of our previous Reports, and is well understood by the general public. The work in which we are engaged, is one of benevolence as well as charity. Our aim is to help the poor in the best possible way, by enabling them, as far as may be, to help themselves, and retain their self-respect by the consciousness, that in receiving the small amounts we are able to allow them for work at the stone shed, they are honestly earning what they get, and are therefore, though poor, not the recipients of charity.

Of course, there are a good many, who from age or infirmity, or other causes, are not equal to the severe labor of stone breaking. Or it may be, that more applicants seek work than the shed can accommodate. Under such circumstances, temporary relief is afforded to the most needy and deserving, by distributing among them, after due enquiry, provisions, fuel or other necessities. No money is ever given, even when it is known that it would not be misapplied, as the visitors feel that such a system would, if once begun, be soon extended, and productive of unsatisfactory results.

The desire of the Association is to put a stop, as far as it can, to the demoralising practice of begging from door to door, by which undeserving persons are often helped improperly, imposture is practised and encouraged, while the really deserving poor who would suffer almost any privation rather than ask alms, are left without the relief which the charitable would gladly extend, if they only knew how it might reach those who stand most in need of it.

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