

not expedient to make any change at present in the management of the House, nor (as a Committee) to engage in any other public effort for the relief of the poor."

But the Ladies of the House of Industry, up to a large majority of them, coincided in our proposed plan—which had indeed in part originated with themselves,—and gave it throughout their earnest support, confining at the same time the benefits of their own Institution, as was suggested to them, to such persons as became inmates of their House.

—In then submitting their object and plan to the Protestant public and asking its co-operation the Committee observed :

On our streets and at our doors, these two classes of poor—the improvident and vicious, and the truly necessitous and deserving—promiscuously appear, and if they are alike aided the evils of indiscriminate alms-giving result. Hence the need of discrimination ; and the separation of these two classes. This is a first duty. To give aid in the one case is often to confirm habits of pauperism and vice ; to give it wisely in the other case is often to rescue from present extreme want and suffering, to stimulate to exertion, and to place upon the path of industry and future independence.

The improvident and vicious need discipline and reformation, the institutions and appliances for which it would seem to us the city government should provide. But the giving of city funds to aid the promiscuous poor, we reprobate as an evil and an injustice, and as tending in many cases to encourage idleness and vice, and to pauperize its objects. On the contrary the few really deserving poor, though fit subjects of help, should be left to the help of private or organized benevolent effort. And, as respects the Protestant poor of this class, while disclaiming all city aid in their behalf, we avow our conviction that their Protestant fellow citizens will care for them. Yet of such necessitous poor there are still two classes : those in communion with Churches, and who are cared for by their Churches, and who rarely appear as askers of public charity ; and those who are not in particular connection with any one of the Protestant communions. It is with this latter class we have to do. On behalf of such, chiefly, do this Committee seek to organize the means of aid.

If then refusal to all street and door beggars be urged—and it is urged as needful to check the growing evil of beggary,—and if city funds for the purpose of relief be disclaimed, it comes to be all the more necessary that there should be systematic and careful inquiry into all cases of professed poverty, and means provided adequate to the relief of the deserving. To this end rooms will be opened in the old High School, where it is requested Protestant Poor may be sent for temporary relief, and where the Ladies of the Committee undertake to have their cases inquired into, and to see that aid is given only to the deserving.