

be of service to any. True charity is an active principle. It is not properly a single virtue ; but a disposition residing in the heart as a fountain ; whence all the virtues of benignity, candour, forbearance, generosity, compassion, and liberality flow, as so many native streams.

This charity is universal benevolence. It does not confine itself to particular sects or societies, but endeavours, as far as its influence extends, to promote general happiness. There can be no greater proof of an illiberal mind, than to hate others because they are of different colour, speak a different language, or do not join with us in the same creed. A fellow creature in distress, of whatever nation, of whatever colour, or of whatever religion he may be has a claim to your humanity : the contrary betrays a want of charity, the leading feature of Christ's sacred Gospel.

Let it be your ambition this evening, to exercise this virtue : God's blessing shall be upon the works of your hands and ye shall prosper. Then s' all ye be no strangers to the luxury which holy Job felt when he said, *When the ear heard me, it blessed me ; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness unto me ; because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him ; the blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me ; and I caused the widows heart to sing for joy.*

It ought to be a sufficient obligation on us, to perform the duty of charity, to know that it is enjoined by Divine authority ; but it is still more satisfactory and agreeable, to be informed of the particular motives of it ; which when duly entertained in the heart, render the exercise of it, in all particulars, a most delightful employment. With respect to the chief of these motives, ample information is given us. The apostle says, *Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.* The love of God to us, therefore, ought to be the foundation of that benevolence, which it is incumbent on us to extend towards our fellow creatures.

In thus manifesting our love towards our brethren, by relieving the oppressed, supporting the destitute, and comforting the afflicted, how ennobling is the reflection, that we are not only complying with the positive injunctions of our Creator, but imitating him *whose tender mercies are over all his works.*

Do not diminish your charity on account of what you have done in former times ; do not complain of our importunity ; do not say that the miseries of the poor have no end ; do not say, that the poor are never thankful when you relieve them : this is unfounded in fact, and if it were not, I know you too well to suppose, that the thanks of the poor induce you to give. You, my hearers, are inspired with nobler motives. And for liberality to the poor, many of you have no superiors in NOVA-SCOTIA. Do not say, that we are for ever begging for the poor, as some have kindly said : this surely is not spoken to our disgrace, but to our honour. Let, then, your former charities be considered as motives to your future char-