

see that the deli-

nittee, performed
most acknowledg-
large, for the
formed that duty.
wants of a dis-
y, and discrimi-
annual meeting, a
d resolution into
work, appeared
Committee of
into their respec-
from receiving
s funds. The
persons, until
and by them to
ing no means of
the fact) to get
accordingly by
eck to imposi-
l putting on "a
rt to the maga-
" reported to
yment for the
and found to
hem.
alance in the
was selling at
in the hands
that article ;
is felt more
ed and eleven
sion of J. W.
e yet remains
office, the
Honourable
before them
as fully con-
tee, several
ey General,
strenuously
industrious
eir earnings
be held in
ndence and
o Saving's
d Douglas,

Your Committee conceive that the Poor Man's Friend Society has lost nothing in the estimation of a humane and discriminating public. Its utility stands above the reach of all cavil ; and whilst its machinery continues to be guided by visitors of respectability—of sound judgment—and of philanthropic minds ; it will ever be a blessing and an honor to those who promoted its early dawnings, and to the town in which it flourishes. Never was an institution in this town more generally approved of ; never was one more respectably, and extensively patronized ; and never, was one more cautiously managed. Like every other humane Institution, it partakes of the nature of those who conduct it ; and it must be conceded, that human foresight cannot in this society, any more than in any other Institution, effectually guard against every attempt to abuse its charity. But your Committee are satisfied that its guards are quite as effective if not more so, than those of any other Institution. The services of all its officers are gratuitously rendered, and caution is the very " watch-word" of its visitors. Its charity is not " indiscriminately and unnecessarily" afforded, as some would have the public to believe, whilst they pen their nerveless invectives against it. No case is relieved, until examined by one or more of the visitors, and found to be a *real* case of distress, and then the relief afforded is " a mere pittance"—perhaps two feet (seldom ever is it *four*) of wood, during a *long* and *dreary* winter, with two or three quarts of soup per day, to a family of sometimes eight or ten persons, and some of them perhaps sick. From the first day the society commenced its operations, to the present, the average value of relief given to each individual is less than *four shillings and one penny* per annum.

Private charity often relieves the importunate and worthless beggar, * from his *own* false relation of " misery unequalled," but it is for the Poor Man's Friend Society, through the activity of its visitors, judiciously to discriminate between objects who are fit to be relieved, and those who are not : and although in some cases, visitors may be deceived, yet they are instances which bear no comparison to the number of worthy and deserving objects whom they relieve—not enough, however, by very many, to warrant " the society either being *put down*, or its objects *entirely* changed." As its " legitimate uses," are to relieve *only* those, who have no other means of being preserved from starvation and death, and to whom no such means are offered and refused ; as these uses are acknowledged to " have been pursued" they must indeed be " above all cavil". The Society cannot therefore, " lessen the inducements to industry" when it operates scarcely two months and a half (not *five* months as has been incorrectly stated to the public) of the year ; under the restrictions before-mentioned, and in a season too, where there is little or no scope for the

* It is a fact that some of our juvenile beggars are sent through the town to beg, and dare not return without having collected something, for fear of meeting the utmost severity, from their brutal keepers, who spend their collections in midnight revels and gambling.