

of the help now given falls short of the best results because it is given in a sort of official way. An ounce of sympathy is worth a pound of lecturing. If you go to a poor man's dwelling and sit down beside him as a brother and listen to his story with unaffected interest, you do his heart good by your words and looks, as well as by your gifts. The unsympathetic visitor wounds even while bestowing valuable help. In Mrs. Oliphant's "Life of Edward Irving" there is some account given of the way that great man went about the task of helping the poor in London, and how the good ladies who had sought his aid were confounded. "They had honestly intended to benefit the poor, very, very distantly related to them by way of Adam and the forgotten patriarchs, but the cheerful brotherhood of the man who had blessed the bread of the starving Glasgow weavers, was as strange to them as if he had spoken Hebrew instead of English." Let us treat the poor as our brothers, putting ourselves as nearly as possible in their place, trying to realize what are their hardships and their hindrances, and then we shall be all the better able to help them wisely.