

but they are sorry to be obliged to express the disappointment of that hope : yet, they trust that rather than so noble an Institution should be permitted to totter, and finally to fall, a sufficient number of gentlemen to enable the committee during the ensuing year to appoint *two* to each ward, will offer their services as Visitors, and will scrupulously perform the duties required of them :—duties, which to a benevolent mind must be pleasing in the extreme.

As the Committee are led to believe that many fit and proper persons for Visitors, decline offering their services, under an impression of the duty required of them being very great, they will take this opportunity of defining it.

The performances required of a Visitor of this Charity, in the ward to which he is appointed, are, viz.—1st, an extensive circulation of the Society's annual report ; 2d, to solicit and collect as much as possible towards the funds of the Society ; 3d, to relieve the wants of those whose cases come within the spirit of the Institution ; 4th, to make a correct monthly return to the Committee, embracing the articles expended, and shewing the amount of the expenditure ; and 5th, to furnish the Secretary, when called for, an alphabetical list of the names of those persons who have paid their donations or subscriptions to the Society into his hands.

The Committee are not ignorant of its having been urged as an objection against the utility of this Institution, that pauperism has rather increased than diminished since its establishment ; and that undeserving individuals having in some cases obtained its aid, has been given as a reason why some individuals, whose number the Committee are happy to say is small, have declined subscribing to its funds. But to those who wield such weapons as these against this Society, the Committee would offer the following questions, viz :—Whether it is not reasonable to suppose that the number of paupers would increase with the increasing pressure of the times, arising from the great difficulty experienced by poor persons in finding employment, during the two last years ? Whether the extensive relief given to those paupers has not been much less felt by the community at large while given in subscriptions or donations to this Society, than if the same amount had been wrung from it by the clamorous entreaties of so many starving individuals ? Whether a bare susceptibility of abuse in some of its remote ramifications, is a fair argument against the real utility of any Institution ? Or, to speak more plainly, whether the Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society ought to cease its operations, and all our poor but deserving characters be passed by neglected, and suffered to remain without the necessaries of life, merely because it is pos-

sible, that some degradation obtain a li

Although improper from the Society has nity in gen of indolen shewn by are not ins ses of Soci tion.

The Com the Visitor that the fu improper c tions were as a matter mind in dis that is not tritious effort able to resc obtain emp

The Com perplexity persons wh of many o made to the this Society ture of the ter in the p this Society funds for th mittee wou marks apply be expended they would future, from a charitable of its support

The Com of the publi lieve the w during the p eal to the b nity, they can