

"Called on a widow with two children. She lives in a little hut made of a few common boards through which the wind and snow drift freely. In this hovel she has had to bear the severity of the season, with her children, the one, an infant nine months old, and the other a little child of four. During all the time she has never slept on a bed. Her only resting place was on the boards of the floor, on which she lay down, near an old tin stove—a ragged frock or two spread under her, and her baby and the little girl in her arms—their only covering an old shawl, which formed part of her dress through the day. She seemed cheerful, and thanked God that he had preserved her health and sent her more mercies than she deserved. She has a good character among her neighbours. Her rent is 6s. 3d a month."

The number of those who never attend public worship is very great, indeed more so than would be thought. The missionaries do much good in persuading many to resume attendance, and thus prove a useful auxiliary to the church in its various sections.

In one particular the exact agreement of the experience of the Missionaries with that of the agents of other city missions elsewhere is very marked. It is in the fact that the main cause of the dismal wreck of humanity, the ruin of its hopes, the loss of all peace, the wild agony of some, and the silent pain of others, is intemperance. Put down this curse, and hundreds of households will bless you. But for it the work of the Missionary would be lighter and our city would be spared in a great measure the hideous spectacle of the community of moral and social lepers who now drag out a miserable existence in our midst.

That much direct spiritual benefit results from the mission is beyond a doubt. Many cases could be adduced in which the wandering or careless have been reclaimed, and some lowly children of God cheered amidst poverty and sorrow. Let the following suffice:—

"Visited another woman at the point of death. . . She said: 'In this country it seemed as if I was shut out from all religious instruction. Having lost my husband and being left with five little girls, I attended no place of worship, and worked beyond my strength. My heart was broken.