

tian virtue. They form, in our midst, a community needing every variety of missionary effort. If we want ignorance we need not go to the degraded savage of some distant land; there is plenty of it, dark and degraded enough, at hand: if we want dogged, sullen ungodliness, there is no need to go to besotted and brutal idolaters; our lanes and alleys yield more of it than we suppose: if we want destitution and misery to engage our sympathies, we can find it within a few minutes walk, in the pale faced infant that lies wasted and still in a drunken mother's arms—in the friendless and outcast of tender years, who care for nothing and for none, because none seem to care for them—in the melancholy spectacles of sickness and death, amidst squalor, and hunger, and cold, in the sickness that pines most because the strength is gone that fed and clothed a dependent family, or the death that leaves the grief of the motherless resting on a circle of poverty-stricken and helpless children.

The reports to the Committee abound with such statements of sad and sickening misery. We often in the journals of the missionaries meet with such entries as these. "A widow in great affliction, with five little children and neither money nor food." "A family nearly six days without fire, no money, and hardly anybread." "A family, the husband of which has been sick for six weeks, and the most part of that time in bed (in February), in a room so small that a bedstead could not be put up in it. I had to be shewn into it at one o'clock in the day with a lighted candle. This miserable pair, with their little child, were without fire or food from Saturday up to about one o'clock on Monday. The man was once well to do, but sickness had reduced him. He is since dead. I believe he was a true child of God." These and such like cases abound in this rich and prosperous city. And shall we hesitate to aid the society which brings them to light, and alleviates their bitterness? Shall we allow ourselves to forget this blessed agency which, noiselessly and without ostentation, passes from door to door among the wretched, to lighten the heavy heart, and imitate Him who wipes off all tears from the eyes.

Some of the incidents in the journal of the missionaries are touching in the extreme. Take the following picture of helpless poverty.