

Recognize it as a principle, that a man who has resided three years in a town, has earned a right, in time of need, to its charities; to support from its own treasury, such as it now gives, part from its own, and part from the State's treasury.

Then you may acknowledge, that those not permanent residents for three years in any town, have no claim upon its treasury, but should be supported wholly from the State's treasury. They are now supported partly from the town and partly from the State.

By this distinct sub-division of charge, each party bears what it ought to bear. There is one point gained, that the system is just. But, more than this, because just, it becomes simple, and can be simply administered, which, with the present system, is wholly impossible.

Under this general classification, which is, virtually, that of New York, I will now add some suggestions of detail. To speak of the class, which under this plan would be wholly a State charge, I have suggested that for persons not three years settled in one town, the State should take the whole care. Such persons have not acquired any claim on particular towns. On the State treasury they almost all *have a claim*, for all who landed here have paid two dollars each to it, on exact condition that it should care for them in misfortune. Of these, the larger portion who became chargeable would be those who had recently arrived. In 1850, 1811 persons relieved in Massachusetts had been only one year in the State. In 1851, there were 2000. Of persons desiring relief in any one year, who had been here three years, there would be perhaps 3000.

Suppose these wholly the care of the State. It could arrange for the cheap care of those sick among them much more economically than the towns to whose expenses it now contributes. For those near Boston, it has already the buildings which would be needed at Rainsford Island.

Such an arrangement for 3000 persons, would cost, at the rates for which the New York commissioners succeed in discharging similar duty, \$32,310 annually, and with little or no expense in the preparation of buildings.

The Hospital at Rainsford Island should be fitted for the accommodation of the sick in the neighborhood of Boston. Inexpensive buildings like those till recently in use at Deer Island, and still used at Ward's Island, New York, would answer all additional purposes. Two other hospital establishments in other parts of the State, with arrangements for the care of children, and other persons not able to labor, would complete the necessary arrangements.