

was so great, that their very enemies imputed the triumphs of the cross in heathen lands to this cause. Institutions purely charitable, combining the efforts of many, followed the introduction of christianity. And wherever the principles of the *man of sorrows* are duly respected, and human wants are urgent, such institutions will always arise, and meet with liberal encouragement.

Thus, my brethren, let the designs of the Author of life by so many varieties of human condition, the laws of Heaven regulating the use of talents and property, and the spirit and genius of the christian religion, let these be properly understood and strictly regarded ; and we shall find, in our own breasts, an irresistible plea for indigence and sorrow, a very strong inducement to attend to those of our species, who require counsel, support and aid. Indeed, how can we better express our gratitude for a happier lot, or better please ourselves, than by indulging the best feelings of our nature, and performing the most important duties of social life.

If such considerations are admitted, in reference to the humane object of our present meeting, it may be presumed that all, who compose this assembly, will readily conclude that it is *more blessed to give than to receive.*