

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

"UNION IS STRENGTH, AND KNOWLEDGE IS POWER."

All should be united in doing good, and all are taught by the Bible, to employ that power which knowledge gives, in promoting the happiness of mankind. To extend relief to the destitute, and instruction to the ignorant were the important objects for which the Saviour came into this world. He went about doing good, and it becomes all his followers to imitate him.

Many societies have been formed which are very useful; but one more is wanting in each county in Canada. That is a *Relief Union*. To suffer the poor to go about from door to door to beg bread and clothing is disgraceful, and tends to promote idleness and intemperance.—Intemperance is what has caused most of the poverty and sufferings, which are witnessed in every part of our world; therefore, every good man should lend his aid to stop the progress of that horrid monster. It is annually destroying hundreds of thousands of lives, filling the world with poverty and wretchedness here and horrid fears beyond the grave.

A *Relief Union* for each county is earnestly recommended for consideration and adoption.

By a *Relief Union* the poor might be furnished with the means of support and instruction, as the reward of their own labour, and be placed in a situation where they could be rendered comfortable and useful; and what is most important, fitted for happiness in the next world. As they are now suffered to wander and beg in the streets, they are unprofitable, and bringing upon themselves and offspring temporal distress and eternal ruin.

The plan of the proposed *Relief Union* is to invest money in land, buildings, and materials to be manufactured, to be held in transferable shares. The payment of forty dollars at once, or the subscription of five dollars annually, for ten years will entitle to the privilege of voting in all meetings of this Union and directing the poor to the asylum, or refuge for relief.

And to stimulate the young to engage in this laudable design, it is proposed that all the youth of both sexes from 12 to 21 years of age, by paying half of the above named sum may be members of a juvenile branch of this Union.

The management of each union will be entrusted to seven persons, chosen annually by ballot, four of whom to be a quorum for business, reporting quarterly. No member to be held any longer than it may be agreeable; but such as may give five dollars yearly, or half a dollar monthly for ten years, will be entitled to a share in the funds, valued fifty dollars, with such interest or dividend as may be drawn; and all who may become members of the Juvenile Relief Union, paying two dollars and a half yearly, or 1s 3d monthly, will be entitled to the privilege of directing destitute children to the asylum, and at the end of ten years be entitled to a share of twenty-five dollars with the privilege above stated. The youth will have their choice to entrust their funds to the managers of the *Relief Union*, or choose seven persons to manage their branch separately as they may think best.

Petitions are prepared and now being signed to be sent to the Governor, and both houses of the legislature, soliciting them to grant an act of incorporation to this institution, and requesting a sum equal to what may be thus raised in each county. Should government be pleased to grant the prayer of the petitioners, it would put an end to the disgraceful and demoralizing

practice of street-begging, and form a permanent asylum for any who may be in want, also constitute a bank out of which government might furnish by their part of the profits, clothing and instruction to the Indian tribes, or other destitute persons who cannot go to the asylum.

That God may incline the hearts of all to aid this design, according to their abilities, and raise up suitable persons to direct and manage this institution, so that it may accomplish the great objects above stated, should be the prayer of every *Christian Patriot*.

The ministers of religion with one laymen from each congregation in each county, whom the ministers may nominate, are very respectfully invited to be the provisional committee for carrying this design into operation.

The following is a copy of the Petition which is now being signed in Kingston, to be sent to the Governor and both branches of the Legislature of Upper Canada, for obtaining the means of relief and instruction for the destitute.

We, the undersigned, deeply sensible of the importance of a plan for extending relief to all in want, do earnestly solicit your Honourable House to grant an Act of Incorporation to every *Relief Union* which may be established in this Province, on the plan of uniting manual labor with mental cultivation. The design has been highly recommended by the Duke of Sussex, Lord Bexley, and other distinguished characters, both in Europe and America.

The proposed plan is to set on foot a subscription in every County and populous Town; and all, who may be disposed to subscribe five dollars annually, or half a dollar monthly, to be members of a *Relief Union*, who shall annually appoint seven suitable persons to take the management of the funds, and make all necessary arrangements for relieving and instructing the destitute of said County.

To interest the youth in this important object, all of both sexes, from 12 to 20 years of age, shall be invited to join a *JUVENILE RELIEF UNION*, at half of the amount above stated, to be conducted by seven persons whom they may choose, or allow their funds to be managed by the persons above named, as they may think best.

The funds to be so invested and managed, that the property be every year increasing in value. The shares to be transferable.

The relief and instruction which may be given in this way, would be very important.

Should your Honourable House grant an Act of Incorporation for such an institution in each County, giving yearly, for ten years, a sum equal to the amount which may be subscribed, it is presumed, not one County would long be destitute of such an institution.

Your petitioners respectfully solicit your Honourable House to take the subject into early and serious consideration, and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Kingston, January 4, 1836.

The above Petition has been signed by the Archdeacon, and several others in Kingston. It will be left for a few days at the Reading-Room, with the plan of the *Relief Union*.

Printers throughout this Province are respectfully requested to give this one insertion.