

seek employment. Thousands of such come here every year to find some means of support. Most of them are unfriended and alone, without a home, without father or mother, brother or sister, exposed to all the temptations of a great city. Vile creatures of both sexes are on the watch to lead them astray. At this moment of danger this Association steps forward and takes them by the hand, and invites them within its hospitable doors. The House is not a Refuge or Asylum, but what is a thousand times better, a place where they can be put in the way of providing for their own support. Here the stranger, who felt so desolate as she wandered through the streets seeking employment, finds one place where she is *at home*—where she will meet others who are entering on the same life of struggle, and will receive the sisterly counsel and help of those who are sisters indeed. She is first directed to a plain but respectable boarding-house, where she can live cheaply, but under womanly protection; and then the Association tries to find her employment. As many of these young women from the country could do nothing but housework or plain sewing, it has a number of classes, like those in Trade Schools, in which instruction is given in book-keeping, stenography, type-writing, retouching photographs, drawing, modelling in clay, choir music, &c.—occupations by which they can earn a support; while the Library and Reading-room, the Hall for Lectures, and the large Parlor which is open to them every evening, furnish the means of intellectual and social life. Thus it is that hundreds and thousands of poor, unfriended girls are trained to self-support, and led to a happy womanhood.

You will admit this to be a beautiful charity. How then does it happen that such charities are confined to "Christian" women? The Association is composed only of those who are inspired by "Christian" motives to do a work of "Christian" kindness. Have you any Infidel Associations for the same object? Would you not be astonished to see a building such as that in Fifteenth street, bearing the inscription, "Young Women's INFIDEL ASSOCIATION?" You need not fear to be startled by such an apparition: for you will never see it. I do not mean that individuals among you are wanting in kindly feeling; but it seems never to take the form of any organized effort which re-

quires not only money, but time and personal devotion and self-denial—humble virtues which are painfully wanting in those who, while they use great swelling words about "humanity" in general, do not seem to do much good to anybody in particular. I am sorry to say it, but it is my candid belief that in all the infidels of this city put together (or for that matter, of the country too), there is not enough of practical benevolence to set up one such Association and keep it going for a week!

CHRISTIAN BENEFICENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Nor is this Christian beneficence limited to our own city or country. There is no part of the world where it has not come. In far-off India I have found missionaries (perhaps you would call them "fanatics!") picking up poor little waifs thrown by the roadside to die, gathering them into orphanages, and teaching them in schools. In China, when whole provinces were swept by famine; when thousands of wretched creatures lined the roadside, stretching out their gaunt arms for bread; it was American missionaries who came to their relief, more than one of whom perished in these heroic labors, dying that others might live. But neither in China nor in India, nor anywhere else on the other side of the globe, did I find a skeptic so filled with the enthusiasm of humanity as to devote himself to feeding the hungry or clothing the naked; or, with all his fine phrases, putting himself out of the way to relieve or help a single human creature. When I saw how your philosophers avoided every opportunity of heroic sacrifice, what could I infer but that some secret and deadening power within them sapped their manhood, and rendered them incapable of great acts of devotion? Why is it that Religion only inspires these rugged virtues? "The tree is known by its fruits." That is the best faith which produces the most of practical goodness, of human sympathy, of kindness and charity.

CHRISTIANITY THE ONLY HOPE OF THE RACE.

And so it is that Christianity, weakened as it has been in its influence by the infirmities and treacheries of its professed disciples, still in spite of all has had a great history. Its course through the ages is as marked as that of the Gulf Stream through the ocean, tempering the sea and