

get still larger, before the courts and alleys of our overgrown centres of population present sights still more appalling than those for which they are now infamous, let us lay the foundation of a better state of things, and try to make the infancy of the generations that are coming brighter and happier than if we do not bestir ourselves they are likely to be. It would be a Christ-like thing to restore to the lives of the weary pilgrims in our great cities some of that peace they will never know again; for them, alas! the day is over, and the past cannot be recalled. But something may be done to prevent this state of things being perpetuated. The wealth, philanthropy and energy of England are not, cannot be unequal to the task proposed. Surely it is not impossible that there will some day be a heartfelt and spontaneous response to that sweet and touching exhortation, "Suffer little children to come unto Me." How can that response be more beautifully and practically given than by making childhood happier, more innocent, healthier, shielding it with the strong hand of love from the dangers of the foul dens of our great cities, guiding it upwards to the light?

Sometimes I think, as the discordant voices of angry theologians fall on my ear; as I hear men boldly promising salvation to those who follow one beaten path, sternly and relentlessly refusing it to those who strike out a path for themselves; as I see the enormous, yearly growing mass of human suffering, the greater difficulties of modern life, the wider separation between rich and poor, the relaxing of the family ties, the increase of armies, the lust of riches, that these are evil days on which I have fallen. Has it always been as it is to-day? One of old exclaimed in bitterness and anguish, "So I returned and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun, and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power, but they had no comforter." What would Solomon have said had he been living now?

If better days are to come upon the earth, especially in this our beloved country; if the sun, when it looks down from its place in the heavens, is to see fewer of the sad sights on which it shines every day, it will only be because men of all ranks and