

## REMARKS.

In order to carry out successfully the objects for which this enterprise is projected, it is evident that what is needed is the concerted action of a General Association, so comprehensive, ubiquitous, and minute, and governed by such well considered and universal principles that all the poverty here shall be understood and systematically provided for. Such a system, it is believed, will avoid the evils inseparable from isolated and independent action and will diminish the chances of imposition, ascertain the exact amount of charity given to each person, and secure a judicious distribution of alms to the needy. "Moral means" and appliances moreover must also be introduced as fundamental to the system. Hence the Constitution adopted declares the design of the Association to be "The elevation of the moral and physical condition of the indigent; and, so far as is compatible with these objects, the relief of their necessities." These means are included, because no others are adequate of themselves to produce the results which the character of the poor and the designs of the Institution require. For the aim should not merely be the alleviation of wretchedness, but the reformation of character, and, as far as possible, the extermination of the very germs of pauperism. It is apparent that the growth of this City renders a more ample charitable fund, and a different system of supervision and distribution necessary. The return of every winter has hitherto been attended with an incalculable amount of real or fictitious distress that has put in requisition "Soup-Kitchens," "Potato Rations," and "Relief Committees," but, notwithstanding, the benevolent were still harassed with applications, and importunate impostors constantly obtained the aid which was designed only for the needy and deserving.

To remedy this, and to obtain the desired results, it need here be only added that the measures must be preventive rather than remedial. Its primary and direct action is to discountenance indiscriminate almsgiving; to visit the poor at their dwellings; to give them counsel; to aid them when practicable in obtaining employment; to inspire them with self-reliance and self-respect; to inculcate habits of industry, economy, cleanliness, and temperance; to care for the instruction of their children; and, whenever necessary, to provide such relief as may be suitable to their wants. In social evils of long standing a change from wrong to right, even when the right has been ascertained, cannot always be readily effected. A cautious and deliberate course will be pursued, in order to avoid the adoption of any principles or modes of action that are opposed by facts and experience.