

and destitute but deserving families, when the work of the Committee was finally closed.

Private benevolence, it should be added, has since maintained several families whose circumstances were such that it would have been inhuman to have entirely cast them off.

It now remains to point out some further results of this effort. From the statement already made it appears that of 289 persons who sought aid, 94 were found not deserving it; 42 of them so found by being visited at their homes, and their circumstances fully inquired into, and 52 by misleading the visitors and not returning to the rooms, so showing their unwillingness to afford reasonable evidence of good character and worthiness of aid. Thus was found the value of the rule, not to give aid in any case until its claims had been investigated; and thus was deception often exposed. Most of these 94 probably continued to beg; while most, probably, of the remaining 195 were saved from that resort. Hence perhaps the abatement of street-begging observed. If so, were this effort continued, and our fellow citizens would refuse aid to street-beggars, but would, instead, sustain this effort, there might in this be found an effectual remedy for the evil of street-begging. The deserving poor would be helped, while the improvident and vicious would be stopped in their heretofore successful attempt to live upon the unmerited and misused charity of the public; the one class judiciously aided, the other driven to exertion to secure their own maintenance, both would be saved from the degradation of beggary, and both be bettered.

There has been evidence of the good effect of the visits of the Ladies to the homes of the poor, whose inmates have been cheered and revived by the kindness, and relieved by the charity of their visitors, while proper independence of feeling has been so cherished and exertion so prompted that there were many instances of those who had been found almost sinking under their difficulties, being soon set out cheerfully in the way of doing for themselves.

In short, in the exposing of imposture,—in the finding of employment for so many,—in the inculcation of habits of cleanliness in the dwellings of the poor,—in the affording maintenance to several very aged persons,—in the reformation of several heads of families, who had become the victims of intemperance,—