

was the ruler of the nations : they found the haunts of the scorned Hebrew : they startled the degraded revels of the slave : they sought out the poor foreigner, attracted by the city's wealth, and perishing amid its desolation : they crept to the pallet on which fever and poverty were stretched, tendering the hand of restoration, and whispering the lessons of peace. This was his noblest dignity : not that he publicly pleaded before princes, but that he strictly solaced the outcast and the friendless ; not that he paced the forum, but that he lingered in the dens of wretchedness, and refreshed the hardened heart with gentle sympathies, and linked the alien with the fraternity of men, and dropped upon the darkest lot the spirit of Providence and of hope. And what is true of this great apostle, is true of the religion which he spread, and which we profess. Its true dignity is, that unseen it has ever gone about doing good. Link after link has it struck from the chain of every human thralldom : error after error has it banished : pain after pain has it driven from body or from mind : and so silently has the blessing come, that (like the lame whom Peter made to walk) " he that was healed wist not who it was."

It can *never* be unseasonable for those that bear the name of Christ to imitate his spirit, and to address themselves to the great mission which Providence has assigned to their religion (that is, to themselves), as the antagonist power to those human sufferings, which may be lightened at least, if not remedied. But this period of the year* brings with it a distinct and peculiar call to remember with a thought of mercy the several ills that flesh is heir to. Every season has its appropriate worship, and de-

* This discourse was preached at the end of November.