

not approach — the more pious and charitable they are, the farther they will keep away, partly from that disgust which virtue feels for vice, partly through fear, lest by contact with persons so degraded, their own fair name may be tarnished and their good intentions misconstrued by foul minds or calumniated by malicious tongues.

Where then can that poor degraded being, flying from a life of sin, find shelter? No family however poor, if respectable, can run the risk of harbouring her. What will the neighbours say if that father and mother allow such a person to cross their door, nay even if they are but noticed speaking to her? Perhaps her good intentions are only feigned and she seeks the ruin of some of their own children? They have daughters of their own to be protected. Yet is there no relief for her misery? Must she perforce stay in sin? Christ pardoned the woman found in adultery — He forgave the penitent Magdalen and even said "many sins are forgiven her because she has loved much." Has that merciful Savior no followers who will walk in His footsteps and endeavour to bring to Him these poor sinful creatures who are disowned even by the father and mother who weep over them, and scorned and rejected by the very persons who have compassed their ruin? Yes, Christian charity knows no sorrow or distress that it may not relieve, and the highest embodiment of Christian charity is to be found in those different communities, those religious orders established in the bosom of the Catholic Church, whose members have left all to follow Christ — parents, wealth and pleasure, and have devoted their lives to the support and solace of the suffering and miserable of every class and condition.

Apart from those religious orders that devote themselves to teaching, there are Sisters who relieve the poor in their homes and in asylums, who take care of the orphan, who attend the sick and dying; there are others who receive that wandering sheep, of whom Christ said "Rejoice with me because I have found the sheep that was lost," the poor outcast of Society — To her they give a shelter, that is a *home* and the means of earning