

has been had to give a detailed statement in each case of the circumstances under which relief has been granted. In only two of the instances there mentioned, viz. :—those of B. Spillsbury and widow Welch, has your Committee any just reason to regret the assistance they have been the means of affording. They are, however, pained to state, that in those cases they were misled by deceptive artifices, and they have consequently, in the subsequent formation of a code of rules for their guidance, endeavoured, as far as possible, to provide against the recurrence of similar frauds.

From the tenour of the latter part of the 9th Article of the Constitution, which states that the interest of the funded property of the Society "shall be applied, together with two-thirds of the Annual Subscriptions, to the expenses and benevolent objects of the Society," much difficulty has occurred to your Committee, it having never been in their power to ascertain what actual sums were available for charitable purposes, inasmuch as those only appear to be so applicable which remain after paying the current charges of the Society. These, it is evident, can only be known at the close of the year, and your Committee has consequently been obliged throughout to act upon a vague calculation of the probable expences of the Society—disposing only of such sums as it was likely would remain after their discharge. Your Committee has, in consequence, been much crippled in its exertions, and, with a view to facilitate measures to all future Committees, would respectfully suggest that a specific sum should be annually laid aside for the benefit of their distressed countrymen, and would further recommend that the sum so appropriated should be, *at the least*, one half of the monies available for general disbursements.

All of which is nevertheless humbly submitted,

HENRY D. SEWELL,

Actg. Chairman of the C. Com.

Quebec, 24th December, 1836.

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