

Christian love on the many, and various necessities of our fellow-men. We are taught by it, or rather by Him by whom it was first proclaimed, that man is every where the neighbour of man. We are taught by it to take a deep interest in every philanthropic enterprize for the benefit of our fellow countrymen, whether from Great Britain, or the Sister Isle, scattered over this land, or of any of our brethren of mankind, and to help it forward, in so far as it may be in our power; to give our mite for the alleviation of famine, or sudden and overwhelming calamities, or the disasters of wide-spreading disease, whether in our own, or in neighboring lands; but above all, in our own more immediate sphere, to do good both to the souls and to the bodies of our fellow men.—by precept and example, by our alms, and by our prayers;—to pluck those that are ready to perish, as brands from the burning, to visit the sick in their affliction, to pour into the wounded spirit the healing balm of christian consolation, and to minister to the wants of the poor and needy. Your destitute fellow countrymen, my Brethren, whom you have aided in this distant land, far from the home of their sires, cannot recompense you, but every such act, performed in the spirit of christian love, meets with the approval of your heavenly Father, and will receive the recompense of reward at His hands. “He that hath pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord, and that which he hath given will He pay him again.”

*Secondly*, and in conclusion, my Brethren, it only remains, briefly to consider the *manner* in which we are to fulfil the precept here given. “*Giving all diligence*,” add to your faith virtue, and all other christian graces. The attainment of these, along with faith itself, forms an aim which ought to be common to all, and in the prosecution of which, every one ought to be sedulously engaged with all diligence, as his chief business and concern. In subordination to the principal business of life, other objects may be lawfully pursued, and many are the aims towards which we severally direct our labors, and which we are bound to follow. But this is the object that ought to engage our main endeavours, which we ought to regard as most excellent, and to seek after as our best portion, and which alone brings with it real, and permanent happiness. Then shall we “lay up for ourselves treasures in