

li: discussions, the prevalence of a narrow, bitter, party spirit, the condition of many of the laboring, and all the colored population, and the practice of intemperance and commission of infanticide in this land, there is surely enough in its social aspects to demand earnest effort and to answer every educated person disposed to ask "Who is my neighbour?"

3. TO SEEK TO GIVE A RIGHT DIRECTION TO BENEVOLENT ENTERPRISES.

Good men are not always wise, and laudable zeal is not always judiciously directed. A social reformer may be a fanatic with a pet project, fanciful and impossible; or a philanthropist, wisely seeking to accomplish a really good and practicable work. Attempts at doing good have not unfrequently been sad mistakes fraught with evil. Educated men can do much to prevent their repetition by ascertaining what has been done in other lands and how it may with advantage be imitated in their own.

4. TO SET BEFORE THEMSELVES THAT THE GREAT SOCIAL PROBLEM OF THE FUTURE IS THE ELEVATION OF THE LOWER ORDERS.

I do not say the only problem, but the great problem which society must solve. The best thinkers of the age admit that till it is solved not much more can be accomplished in the way of social progress. The existence in every community in both continents, of large masses, ignorant and miserable, degraded and vicious, is an incubus which society may *sustain*, but with which it cannot *advance*. Must it remain, wasting the resources, absorbing the energies and discouraging the hopes of society? Too much has already been done to doubt that infinitely more is possible. Results almost miraculous have arisen from well directed efforts in some quarters where the worst materials had to be dealt with. France has proved that squalid destitution may be prevented. The convict system of Ireland has solved the problem of dealing with the criminal classes. In the United States the artizan enjoys a social position that is nearly everything that could be wished. Cannot all these be united without the despotism of France, the democracy of America or the abnormal peculiarities of