

Now, who is to do this, if not he who has in advance formally undertaken it as a special duty, appointed a time for his visit, and who, under the charitable eye of a fellow labourer, is guarded against the indifference and inconstancy so natural to the human heart? Who will treat this ever running sore of poverty with the resources and the constancy of the associate, for whom charity is a career? Who is to take charge of the child who is too poor to go to school, belonging to a family, not a member of which is able to read, and in which the most sacred duties are either unknown or forgotten? who is to send that poor child to a christian school, who is to clothe him, who is to lead him by the hand until he is old enough to begin an apprenticeship or labour for his own maintenance? who is to take in hands the youthful apprentice, and watch over him with the vigilant and assiduous charity he needs so much? who is to provide him with good books? who will entice him to that charitable association calculated to afford a vent to the energy of his buoyant youth, where his virtue shall be placed under the safeguard of charity? Who will penetrate the secret of the poor who are still "ashamed to beg?" To whom but to a disciple of St. Vincent de Paul will the poor victims of want and misfortune, who dread even the eye of indifference, open their hearts with freedom? who will apply a moral remedy to a moral evil: good advice, exhortation, prayer, unless he whose profession it is to devote himself assiduously to the poor, and who has already gained their hearts and acquired in some sort a beneficent right to correct them? Do you fancy for a moment, my brethren, that the diseased soul of the poor man will yield to the isolated, fluctuating and heartless mite thrown to him by a mercenary hand?

In fact, without that union which is strength, an appointed and, well calculated means, a strong organisation, a provision of charity, in fine, a charitable crusade, you can never encounter the multiplied and powerful enemies of man's happiness, whether physical or moral, with the certainty of victory.

But, in this way we can accomplish every thing. Oh! would it were possible to sum up all the alms, both material and spiritual, all the good effected by the hundred thousand disciples of St. Vincent de Paul, amongst the million of poor, the thousands of children, of apprentices, of artisans, that have succeeded one another since the society commenced