

latter, can often only be attained by kindness bestowed upon the former. It is easy to express pity and compassion, to make flaming orations, brimful of tender emotion for the sufferings of our fellowmen, but quite a different thing to exercise practical everyday Christianity, to go about as Christ did from door to door doing good, making the widow's heart rejoice, and causing the orphan's tongue to sing for joy. This according to the apostle James, is the best of all evidences of our growing likeness to the Saviour.

The same duty enjoined upon all true believers in the New Testament, is enforced by the Prophet Isaiah in the Old. After rebuking the Jews for their vain oblations, their new moons and solemn feasts, he adds, "Cease to do evil—learn to do well—seek judgment—relieve the oppressed—judge the fatherless—plead for the widow." And again, "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked that thou cover him, and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" And what says the Apostle Paul in writing to the Corinthians: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (or rather as it should be rendered love) I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." In other words, however clear his understanding of the doctrines of Christianity, however keen his intellectual faculties and however well instructed in the mysteries of redemption, yet without the existence of love, all were of no value.

At all times there is ample room for the exercise of Christian benevolence, in the Church and out of the Church, in the circle of our own immediate acquaintances, in adjoining neighbourhoods, and out in the world at large. But there are seasons when Christians are called in more imperatively to give of their abundance to the poor and the afflicted. Such a time is the present. There has not been for many years a period, when there was greater room and necessity for the exercise of Christian charity. Stagnation of trade, caused by the political troubles of the sister nation to a great extent, the failure of crops and other causes, have produced in many localities a wide spread destitution, and driven many honest, hard-working men with dependent families, upon the mercy of the benevolent. In such circumstances what is our duty as Christians who are stewards of heaven's bounties? Not certainly to stand and deplore the miseries of starvation, without extending a helping hand. The ties of our common humanity and the sympathies of our nature, apart altogether from our profession as Christians should prompt to speedy action. We are the keepers of our broken bodies, as well as souls, in so far as our acts of kindness can mitigate their sorrow, or a generous deed cheer their hearts. Nor does it matter who they are, to what Church they belong, or whether they have made profession of faith in any Church. Whilst it is true that we are commanded to be specially mindful of the Household of faith, our hearts are to be large enough and our sympathies tender enough, to embrace the whole family of the suffering. Church boundaries and denominational differences and sectional lines, are not to render us insensible to the cry of want. On the battlefield, the soldier binds up the wounds of his dying brother, though but recently he may have been his deadly enemy. So should it be with all Christ's disciples. When the tear of sorrow appeals to your heart, when the tattered beggar or harmless orphan, or bereaved widow stands at your door, begging for a crust of bread, an old worn out garment or coverlet to protect her and her fatherless children from the chilly blasts of winter, be not insensible to the cry of pity. Do not in sectarian bigotry, or that spirit of distrust and over-cautiousness, which is so prevalent in our day, steel your hearts to the appeals of the suffering poor. Be it yours to compassionate. It is Christ-like. Thus will religion become more lovely and attractive in the eyes of the world—thus will