

Such Societies have been long established in other parts of the world with very beneficial effects. They have not only afforded relief in various shapes to those, who from want of it might have perished, or dragged on a life of extreme indigence and misery ; but they have served to keep alive the recollection of their country, and by the example of those illustrious characters, to whom it has given birth, to animate them to those laudable and heroic deeds, which have so much distinguished the land from which they come. Picture to yourselves, if you can, the case of a large family arriving on these shores in low or destitute circumstances, wholly ignorant of the country, and perhaps unknown to any individual.—From length of passage, anxiety of mind, or other causes, sickness may overtake them.—The heads, the main props of the family, who hoped by the blessing of God on their honest industry, to establish a comfortable home on this continent, or one of them, may be snatched away by death.—What would be the situation of the survivors, if there were no friendly Society to take a lively interest in their welfare, to supply in a manner the place of the deceased, and to do all that care and general watchfulness can do to make them respectable and useful members of the community ? This, my brethren, is not merely a picture of the fancy, every year, more or less, this and such like cases, are presented in sad reality to our eyes : How cheering then to think, that in addition to the other charitable institutions which adorn this city, there exist those, whose more immediate business it is to look into the particular cases of their poorer fellow-countrymen, and to give them that relief, which they are not entitled to from other sources. In a place like this, where our countrymen arrive under circumstances so peculiar, it is most desirable that we should know our own.—I maintain that this may be done without prejudicing the cause of humanity in general.—Nay, those who are anxious for the welfare of others, who are connected to them by any tie, will by necessary consequence be anxious to promote, according to their means and opportunities, the happiness and welfare of the