

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HAVEN, AND
PRISON GATE MISSION.

"For the love of Christ constraineth us."—2 Cor. v. 14.

"For love's sake."—Philemon 9.

"Freely ye have received, freely give."—Matt. x. 8.

Paul, inspired by the Spirit of God, and writing in apostolic times, makes this remarkable statement: "Now abideth faith, hope and love; but the greatest of these is love." A distinguished Christian writer of our own day gives us, in the following words, the conclusion he had reached, after a life-long experience and study of great truths: "I do not distinguish one from another merely by the difference in their thought power; still less do I distinguish them by the difference in their executive power. There must be a deeper gauge than these. Still less do I distinguish them by external differences, as where one is high and another is low; where one is rich and another is poor, where one is wise and another is unwise. The point where true manhood or womanhood resides is in the neighborhood of love. In the copiousness, the variety, the endlessness, the sweetness and the purity of the element of love, you shall find the measure that God applies discriminating between one and another."

Our blessed Lord, in correcting the false impressions of the Jews, in His Sermon on the Mount, and in making a practical application of this truth concerning love, says with a definiteness and distinctness that resounds through the ages: "But I say unto you, love your enemies . . . that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye?"

In summing up our records at the close of the year, as rescue workers, we speak with humility and tenderness of our work as a "labor of love," and we rejoice that the privilege of *loving* the fallen and the unfortunate has been given to us. Truly, neither man nor woman can seek and try to save the lost, the unfortunate, the abandoned, without having the soul aflame with love—love to God and mankind. And when we say love, we mean that grace of the Spirit described by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians: "Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."