

very midst, a large amount of suffering which was unrelieved and unprovided for. This was not so much owing to the apathy or indifference of such of our citizens as were able and willing to relieve the wants of the deserving, as from the fact that such cases were comparatively unknown, or their knowledge in a majority of instances confined to but the few, who were in most cases compelled to seek them out. Hundreds, even in our own active and busy community, able and willing to work—in many cases recently landed upon these shores, penniless, destitute, literally strangers in a strange land—were unable to find employment, and many deserving objects, suffering from destitution and disease, were deterred from seeking aid by that barrier of personal pride and self respect which ever forms a barrier around those who have seen better days. A few public spirited and charitable citizens, fully alive to the work, and seriously desiring to relieve the necessities and procure the means of livelihood for the sensitive and deserving, formed this association and established an agency for carrying out this laudable design, where parties needing assistance and employment might without degradation in their own estimation make such application. The public were requested, through the papers, to send all persons soliciting aid on the street to the agency, and to call the attention of the management to any cases requiring aid or relief, which might come to their knowledge. The benefits of this system were at once made apparent—our citizens were no longer importuned for alms on the public streets, suitable employment was afforded upon application at the office, to all desirous of obtaining work and earning an honest livelihood. No great parade was made, no public appeals for aid, but through assistance quietly rendered the association pursued the even tenor of its way, bestowing its benefits like the dews which fall from heaven, silently and unostentatiously. The only direct appeal made to the public at large for aid was in the placing contribution boxes at the different polling places of the last election, from which source—the voting population having become sensible of the manifold benefits of this organization, and fully assured that their charities would reach the proper objects, which we regret to say is not always the case—quite a handsome sum was realized.

We cannot give a better idea of the practical operations and manifold benefits of this deserving institution than by copying the following statement of its objects and principles, published in the prospectus of the association, for the benefit of members, visitors, and the public at large, who are directly interested:

All who become subscribers are members, and are entitled to the directory and tickets which will enable them to refer applicants to the proper source for relief.

Its arrangements are, first, a division of the city into forty districts, and the appointment of an Advisory Committee; and next, the selection of a general agent to manage the general business of the association, to which all of his time and talents are to be devoted.

The Visitors are distributed so as to cover the entire area of the city. By this minute division of labor and responsibility, the institution is prepared, so far as the means shall be supplied, to meet every proper want of the needy. The laborious and invaluable services of the Visitors, who will be selected with great care, will be entirely gratuitous.

The diversified labors of each district are confided to the prudent supervision and control of a Visitor, whose field of labor is compressed to a limit which admits of his personal attention to all the needy therein.

In whatever part of the city the suffering apply to the members of the association for aid, by means of a directory and printed tickets, they are sent to their

appropriate Section and Visitor, whose proximity to the residence of the applicants enables him, by personal visitation and inquiry, to extend, withhold, or modify relief, on clearly defined principles, according to the deserts and necessities of every case.

Assistance is rendered not only with great caution, but with great secrecy and delicacy when necessary. No degradation consequently will follow such relief; nor will it be the means of undermining one right principle, or of enfeebling one well-directed impulse.

As has been already stated, the association is not intended to supersede existing charities, but, so far as is practicable, to make them available to those for whom they are designed.

With this statement of the purposes of the association, the Trustees appeal to the public for aid in this long-needed charity. They especially invite attention to the necessity of avoiding indiscriminate almsgiving, and they request that the bounties of the people be allowed to flow through this or some other regularly authorized channel.

In order that the work of the organization may commence at once, they respectfully invite these who are disposed to contribute to the funds of the association, and thus become members, to present their names, with the amount of their subscriptions, at the office at the earliest possible moment.

The rooms and office of the association are located at No. 410 Pine Street, above Montgomery, where Mr. I. S. Allen, the active agent and manager, can be found to answer the calls made under the foregoing regulations. The following well known citizens comprise the officers of this praiseworthy organization: Robert B. Swain, President; J. W. Stow, Treasurer; Dr. L. C. Gunn, Corresponding Secretary; I. S. Allen, General Agent and Secretary; R. G. Sneath, J. W. Stow, R. B. Swain, and L. Sachs, Advisory Committee; R. B. Swain, R. G. Sneath, Louis Sachs, Capt. Levi Stevens, Moses Ellis, W. C. Ralston, J. W. Stow, Eli Lazard, D. W. C. Rice, M.D., Wm. Norris, and Louis McLane, Trustees.

LADIES' SEAMAN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

At a time when no one seemed to care for the sailor in this our great commercial city—his wants and necessities, whether in sickness or in health, all unheeded for; no home of comfort provided for him, and only the low haunts of vice and dissipation afforded Jack a resting place as he came in from the deep waters—this society was established by a few ladies whose sympathies had been called forth in behalf of this important class of our fellow men. It dates from March 26th, 1856—the object being “to relieve shipwrecked and destitute seamen, to establish a boarding house where they may find a home and protection against the pernicious influences and injustice to which they are subjected in this port; to supply the destitute with clothing, and to place within their reach the means for moral and intellectual improvement.” It commends itself as truly philanthropic—its basis, *universal benevolence*, irrespective of sect or country. With unabated zeal and untiring efforts the ladies who are engaged in this meritorious work, notwithstanding the heavy rents to which they are subjected, have sustained a comfortable boarding house, and furnished aid to hundreds of sick and destitute sailors, who otherwise must have suffered, inasmuch as the Revenue Laws of our country precluded their admission (under the circumstances) into the Marine Hospital.

Their annual appeal to the Legislature for an appropriation to enable them to purchase a lot and build a Sailors' Home has, as yet, been unheeded.

During the progress of the recent Mechanics' Institute exhibition, the enterprising managers of the society conducted a New England Kitchen at the Pavilion, the results of which will materially assist them in carrying into effect their very praiseworthy