

RELIEF FOR STARVING THOUSANDS.

December 1862

PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA:—

In those districts of Great Britain which are devoted to the cotton manufacture, there is actual or impending starvation. With tens of thousands of operatives, there is, at this moment, severe suffering; before three months pass, unless relief is extended by the hand of charity, the suffering will be intense and the mortality dreadful. We cannot contemplate the horrors of a single death from starvation without sickness of heart—without instinctive longing to succor and save; what then should it be when the evil threatens to assume such colossal proportions, and presses indiscriminately upon those of every age? They are our kinsmen after the flesh; many of them have relatives living in our own land; all of them are bound to us by the ties of a common faith and a common language. What forms a yet more impressive claim upon our compassion, is the fact, that they are dying for lack of that which a gracious God has bestowed upon us in almost measureless abundance.

We are in the agonies of a fearful strife; but we have bread enough and to spare. God has been pleased, too, to open the hands and hearts of our people, so that, at home, perpetual streams of beneficence flow forth, blessing those who give and those who take. Let those streams reach our brothers and sisters across the ocean, in this day of their huge sorrow, cheering their hearts by sympathy, while they quicken their bodies into new life. Let the spontaneous wide-spread enthusiasm which, in 1847, moved to the relief of famine-stricken Ireland, stir us up in 1862 to yet greater efforts in behalf of famine-

stricken Lancashire, and let it be seen that now, as heretofore, American benevolence overleaps all national boundaries, and ministers gladly to the needy everywhere.

The opportunity that here offers is for everybody—for the rich out of their abundance, and the poor out of their penury. To every one in the Commonwealth, whether in the city or the village, whether in the hamlet or the farm house, this appeal is addressed. Offerings may be made in money or in bread-stuffs. In order to cheapen and expedite the transmission of contributions, the aid of Railroad Companies, of Forwarders, Shippers and Bankers is invoked. In order to the speedy diffusion of information, and the more prompt and general collection of means, the co-operation of the Ministers of Religion, of Magistrates, Merchants and Postmasters is solicited. Wherever, in this favored State, the bounties and blessings of heaven have descended, there may there be cheerful and liberal givers—there may there be, in this behalf, earnest and cordial workers.

Contributions may be sent to A. G. CATTELL, Esq., Treasurer of the Fund, at the Corn Exchange Bank, or to either of the undersigned

C O M M I T T E E.

ALONZO POTTER, Chairman.

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P. S.—Contributions from other States will be gladly received.

"A great staple manufacture, giving livelihood to some 4,000,000 of people, cannot be suddenly brought to a stand; 180,000 operatives cannot be turned adrift, and denied the work by which they shall subsist; nor can 184,000 of their fellow laborers be reduced to work short time, without producing a disastrous effect on the country where such a state of things shall exist. Yet such is the present state of employment in the cotton manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Cheshire. Of the 355,000 operatives usually employed in spinning and weaving cotton, only 40,000 are now working full time. A calm consideration of the results likely to be produced by this tremendous disturbance, fills the discerning mind with dismay. It was bad enough six months since, when 92,000 operatives were working full time, 299,000 short time, 857,000 were unemployed. But the unemployed have actually increased from 16½ to 50¾ per cent. The like of this was never before known."—*Illustrated London News*, Nov. 22.

"The poor people cannot maintain themselves. They have exhausted all they had before ever a signal of distress was displayed. From comfortable dwellings, most of them have removed to lodgings and lower rented houses, where, divested of every scrap of furniture or bedding, they have been found, in many cases, too reduced to grasp the hand held out to relieve them."—*Ib.*

"For a single instance, take that narrated by a clergyman near Manchester. He says that he found in one house nine persons who had been without fire for seven days, and whose only food for that time had been six pounds of oat meal; in another, were ten persons who had lived a week on thirty cents; in the next house were eight grown persons, the wife having just produced twins; there was no food in the house, one of the twins had died, and there was no means of burying it. In a fourth dwelling, the children were trying to keep themselves alive with potato skins."—*London Daily News*.