Thoughts on the Prevalence of Poverty. (Continued.)

We are pleased to find by a late announcement in one of our daily papers, that there are those in our community who not only feel an interest for the poor, but who manifest a proper concern for their welfare, by adopting such measures as will be likely to result in their permanent benefit. Although it is lamentably the case with many who abound in the comforts, and revel in the enjoyments of life, that they are careless of the wants and indifferent to the sufferings of others, there are some noble exceptions to this melancholy truth; men whose hearts throb with the most generous emotions, and whose hands are open to dispense blessings to the necessitous.—We mentioned, in a preceding article, that obligation which rested upon large landed proprietors to distribute a portion of their thousands of acres which it is wholly impossible for them to use to advantage, among those who are able, if they were allowed the opportunity, to cultivate it. In accordance with such suggestion, though following the impulse of his own feelings and judgment, it appears, from what we have seen published, that Mr. Barzillai Ransom, a merchant of our city, whose name stands high, and who is deservedly much respected in the mercantile world, has concluded to offer to some ten or dozen families, who are qualified and willing to engage in its cultivation, a certain quantity of unoccupied land in Western Virginia, if such a number can be found who will become actual occupants. His proposition is to give to each of such families, free of all cost and expense, fifty acres, with the privilege of purchasing as much more as they may think desirable, free of all cost and expense, fifty acres, with the privilege of purchasing as much more as they may think desirable to themselves before the expiration of this sale, after which time the land will be sold, with the very favorable terms of payment, will, and that the portion that will be given to them at first, enable, in all probability, each occupant before the expiration of the term of the North Carolina, to become comfortably independent. He owns a tract of land (10,000 acres) in one of the most healthy countries and delightful climates in the world, and not more than three days distance from our city, by steamboats and stages, and railroad. And this he proposes to make the home of those whose industry and qualifications for such employment may thus be rendered available to themselves and to society; but who, by reason of their poverty and from want of means, are denied the opportunity of purchasing. Occupants, such as are desirable, we think will, in the present unpromising state of affairs, not be long wanting; and the example of humanity and benevolence which he has set, we trust will be speedily followed by others. There is, as we have said, enough of wealth and abundance of resources in our country for the supply of the wants of all, and with proper appropriation none need be left to suffer. Nor will the distribution of property, wisely and judiciously made, in the event detract in the least from the wealth, or be of any pecuniary disadvantage to the original possessor. By the proper cultivation of a portion of those large tracts of unoccupied land, it renders the remaining portion doubly valuable, and if in future they should be put into market they will bring a two-fold price. So that whilst our rich men are, in this manner, obeying the dictates of their conscience on this subject, and following the impulse of humane and generous feeling, they are at the same time acting on the principles of sound and judicious calculation.—And it does not take from a man’s worth, or reputation, even on the score of kindness, or of pity for the wants of others, that he is able to supply or relieve them, whilst he is submitting to no sacrifice himself. It is only the evidence that he is possessed of a discriminating judgment, as well as an excellent heart. We think, too, that not only in the distribution of land, but in the investment of capital for manufacturing and other purposes, our rich men, by affording employment in this manner for the industrious poor, would not merely add to conformity to the obligations which they owe the community; but would in reality add to their own amount of wealth, whilst they contribute to the necessities of others. Were they bent upon doing good, and upon conferring advantages upon those who are in need of them, there are a thousand expedients in the way of business and useful employment, which they could adopt, which, whilst they would serve to give employment to the poor, would at the same time add to their own property, and at least to their measure of enjoyment.

The Sovereign People.

When the Revolutionists who won the Republic for France had forced their way into the Palais Royal and had reached the apartments of General Alphonse, one of Louis Philippe’s sid-de-camps, they encountered the General’s lady, a woman of dignified deportment and stature, whom the general had espoused for her rare beauty, being but the daughter of a poor fisherman of Granville. "My friends," she exclaimed, "I trust you have not come here to offer any injury to myself or my husband. I am not one of your fine ladies, but a daughter of the people; I throw myself then confidently on your protection. But I will not leave my husband; he is confined to his bed by illness." The band were struck with the boldness of the appeal. They repaired to the general’s chamber, placed him in an armchair, and, headed by this daughter of the people, they conveyed him to a friend’s house in the neighborhood. On reaching his destination the General recollected leaving a sum of 130,000 francs ($5,200) in notes and gold in his desk. He handed the key of the desk to a working man in a blouse, whom he did not know. An hour after the man returned with every sou of the money. This is by no means a solitary instance of the disinterestedness and nobility of mind displayed by the people during these most glorious three days.

Duties by the English Steamers at Boston.—The following is the amount of duties paid at the Boston Custom House by the English steamers since the line commenced running:—Total amount paid in 1840, $2,998 99; 1841, $72,859 93; 1842, $190, 974 67; 1843, $640,733 05; 1844, $916,198 30; 1845, $1,022,992 75; 1846, $1,054,731 75; 1847, $1,199,971 78; total, $5,039,209 62.