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Whether a man is born rich or poor is a matter of chance. Many of the rich have simply inherited their wealth, and have in no way earned it; and many of the poor have in like manner inherited their poverty, and have in no way deserved it. It matters not how idle and worthless the rich man is: he remains rich; and similarly it matters not how industrious and sober and able a poor man is, for under present conditions he is too often doomed to a life of poverty.

Leaving aside, therefore, cases of poverty that are really due to idleness or vice, there is a large mass of poverty for which the modern social organization is responsible. These poor are therefore a legitimate burden on their more fortunate rich brothers, whose duty it is to relieve them in their distress. Usually the duty of the rich to the poor is summed up in the word almsgiving, or charity.

It certainly is the duty of those who have to give of their abundance to those who have not, according to their needs. But indiscriminate almsgiving, and even organized charity, is no solution of the problem of poverty; and the mere giving of money to the poor does not relieve a rich man of all further responsibility. Nor is it enough to throw all the responsibility of the poor on the State.

In England, the Government provides workhouses for the old people who are past work, for orphans, and even for able-bodied men out of employment. But in order to discourage pauperism, these work-houses have to be made so undesirable that no poor people will willingly resort to them until they are forced to do so. The poor require something more than money. They want

intelligent sympathy; they want moral help, which no money can buy; they want to be treated as human brothers, and not as creatures of another race, and as dirt under our feet. To give these things to the poor requires a larger heart, a broader mind, and more personal sacrifice, than most rich people are prepared to give.

Yet we shall never be able to relieve the poor in any real way until we can give them our hearts as well as our money. Finally, the chief duty of the rich is to so reorganize society that no man need be poor if he is industrious, sober and honest. This is a very difficult and complicated problem, which cannot be solved by any simple measures; but if a nation as a whole is resolved to abolish all poverty that is not due to individual vice and idleness, it will be able to find a way.