

"PRISONERS OF POVERTY."

SERVICE AND CRITICISM.

AN OFFER OF HELP.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Mrs. Campbell's articles on the "Prisoners of Poverty," justly called by THE TRIBUNE "photographs," are now in the mental album of many thousands of Christians, and it is our business to do something about it, or renounce the name of Christian and write the name of some other deity over the doorways of our temples. That some other channel must and will be found for the industry of this army, who are now overcrowding the labor market of New-York, is, I trust, a foregone conclusion. But meantime there is something that we can do to help them bear their burdens. Will THE TRIBUNE, that has done so much for these women, do more? Will it receive money for their use; and call on benevolent women to organize a purchasing and dispensing agency that will sell coal (which bought by the pall costs something like \$20 a ton) and other necessities of life to these women, at as near the original cost as possible?

I have not the data here, but I know that years ago four or five men, pinched with cold and famine, in rags, and with no possibility of bettering their miserable wages, met together and declared, not as those poor ignorant ones, "that there is no God," but that there is one, and therefore there must be a remedy for their condition, and that remedy must be in themselves; and starting from these premises wrought out the idea of escaping the profits paid to middlemen and established the first co-operative society, which brought them not only relief but wealth.

Will the piety and the intelligence of New-York, seeing Christ, as He told us to do, in these His suffering ones, do for them what they have neither time nor knowledge to do for themselves?

I who write to you do not live in New-York and have no social influence. But I can give as can others. I will give \$10 a month to such a fund. Surely many will give more or as much a month, and thousands \$5, \$2, \$1, 50 cents, 25 cents a month, or else some one single sum; and thousands more of children will send their mite for the love of Christ.

Boston, Jan. 3, 1887.