

**CHARLES FRANCIS
BARNARD: A SKETCH
OF HIS LIFE AND WORK**

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Charles Francis Barnard: A Sketch of His Life and Work by Francis Tiffany

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FRANCIS TIFFANY

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Chas. F. Barnard.

CHARLES FRANCIS BARNARD

A SKETCH OF
HIS LIFE AND WORK

BY
FRANCIS TIFFANY



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1887

CHARLES FRANCIS BARNARD.

I.

INTRODUCTORY.

WHETHER the story of any enterprise in religious philanthropy is worth the telling hinges mainly on a single point: Was the enterprise a simple repetition of what had been done a hundred times before, or was it fruitfully original in character? Were its inspiring ideas seminal?

When, for example, Charles L. Brace founded in New York his Newsboys' Home, he planted an organic seed, and that in as literal a sense as the wheat or maize the farmer sows in his field. To start one more Sunday-school, in which to try to make on the little waifs of the street a few fleeting impressions, as speedily to vanish as the dew under the glare of the sun, was no object of his. What he aimed

at was to substitute in the place of an environment of outcast neglect, thriftlessness, gambling, and profligacy, an environment of friendliness, decency, stimulus to economy and ambition, along with religious suggestions of the ideal of a higher life. Steadily the germ hidden in the project of the home in the heart of the city for homeless children expanded into that of ten thousand genuine homes in farmers' families all over the country. From city to city the idea spread till thousands, who otherwise would have perished morally in an atmosphere of infection, were put under permanent conditions of health and purity.

Equally did this hold true of the foundation in 1834 of Warren Street Chapel in Boston. In aim and method it was the conception of a distinctly original mind. It constituted an epoch in the philanthropic history of the city. It enlisted in its service the enthusiastic and persistent devotion of men and women of the most varied kinds of ability. It went out into the highways and hedges to compel in the outcast, not to a feast of dry husks, but