

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
—OF THE—
TORONTO RELIEF SOCIETY,
1887-88.

THE Managers of this Society, with the experience and lessons of another year, beg leave to present the following as their Thirteenth Report, and take this first public opportunity of returning their sincere thanks to a generous public, for the larger and more spontaneous assistance rendered them, not only in a pecuniary, but in a sympathizing sense, of the arduous and unremunerative duties performed.

This Society is yearly becoming better known, and is gaining in an unobtrusive, but not the less sure way, a firm footing in the City, as one of the most useful organizations within its limits, and, as such, is obtaining for itself the respect and confidence of the people. In the season just ended, the Society has relieved the very large number of 807 different families, embracing an average of 4035 persons, the largest known since its formation, and among these are many distressing cases of families who in the past have not known what it was to seek relief, and who in consequence have been reluctant to come forward and accept assistance at the hands of the Society. Such cases are largely attributable to the disastrous strikes forced upon the men last year, who belonged to the several Unions. Sickness, too, and improvidence—that greatest factor among a large section of our population—to say nothing of the rapid extension of the City's limits, have all contributed their quota to mark the season of 1887-88 as the heaviest yet known to the Society. It will not be wondered at in the face of these facts, that the Society, in spite of the aid received from the City, and larger collections than usual from the public, is for the first time in debt, and with the earnest desire of being yet able to meet its liabilities, has caused a petition to be presented to the Council of the City, praying for increased aid, and there is every hope that its prayer will be granted. In view of the fact that a large number of those persons relieved are immigrants, who come to our shores under the assisted passage system, and upon too highly colored representations of agents of the Government at home, this Society may fairly lay claim to be considered in the category of charities doing immense good to the public, the strongest argument in its favor being, that it is strictly undenominational, relieving any and all who knock at its door, irrespective of creed or color. So great has been the demand upon the time of the officers of the Society, that in