

## ANNUAL REPORT.

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The Managers of the House of Industry, in presenting their Report for 1876, have to observe, that although the drain upon their resources during that year was unusually heavy, they have, with the kind assistance of the public, been enabled to meet it, and also to provide thus far for the demands of the present season, which, they regret to say, has opened rather inauspiciously.

The great prostration which for some time past has pervaded almost every branch of industry, has not only increased the number of their legitimate dependents, but has induced many persons, who during the summer found employment in outlying municipalities, on the cessation of farm labour, or approach of winter, to flock for support into the city. Then again, owing to the unsettled state of affairs in the neighbouring Republic, the Province has been overrun with numbers of needy adventurers, whose presence cannot be considered an acquisition. All these, added to the poor previously existing, make a total of poverty to which the means at the disposal of the Managers may ultimately prove inadequate.

As a country advances in population poverty may be expected to increase in a corresponding ratio. To a moderate extent the rich and the poor may benefit each other,—the one by their charity, the other by their patience. But amongst the most progressive nations of modern times, such as England and the United States, poverty, notwithstanding all their material development, has alarmingly increased; and people may well ask, "What can be done with our poor?"