

R E P O R T.

In entering on the fourth year of this Society's operations, the Committee would acknowledge the hand of a gracious Providence, in that their labours have not been without good results, which, to an encouraging extent, are already apparent.

As the name of the institution has been changed from that originally given, and some misapprehension has arisen from this cause, it may be well to briefly refer to the origin of the Society, and to some of the reasons why a change of name was desirable. A benevolent lady, moved with pity for that class of women, who, outcasts from society, infest our streets, suggested that some means should be adopted for their reformation, and therefore a meeting of ladies and gentlemen was called in May, 1853, at the house of the Rev. Mr. Sanson, and a Board and Committee were selected from the various Protestant churches of the city, who commenced operations in an humble way in a house on one of the principal streets, because a more retired situation could not be obtained. Several ladies arranged a plan for statedly visiting the jail, to read, talk and pray with the inmates, in hopes of leading some to repentance, and inducing them to abandon their crimes, and to seek shelter in the home provided for them. Many immediately expressed a desire