

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1861.

The Central Board, in presenting their twentieth Report to the Annual Meeting of the Church Society, feel called upon to render thanks to Almighty God for the measure of success that has thus far attended their humble efforts. Our Society, yet in its infancy and but in the beginnings of its work, is thankful that a beginning has been made, and we trust on right principles and on lasting foundations. Our very name, the Church Society, suggests many pleasing thoughts, many comfortable reflections. There is something suggestive of high and holy privileges in the word Society. What thoughts of union and harmony and peace does it inspire. It suggests that however widely scattered, how differently soever situated, the members of the Church in this poor Diocese should realize that they are emphatically one family. And that word family, with the sweet influences that cluster around it, may well remind us that however scattered and isolated we may be in our several homes, the Religion of Jesus Christ has drawn us into the most blessed of all Societies,—the Church of the Living God ;—that it has brought us whatever of happiness, or joy, or stability we possess, and that we should so labor for its establishment and upbuilding, and for the sending forth and propagating the blessed Gospel in and through the Church, until it shall illumine every dark corner of the Province, become the centre of unity, and the bond of peace in every neighborhood, the joy of every fireside, the precious boon of every hearth throughout the land.

We come then at once to look over the field entrusted to our care, the work done, the work to be done, the men to do it, and the means by which they are to be sustained.