

REPORT.

"MANY prophets and righteous men desired to see the days which we see, but died without the sight." Assisted by supernatural endowments, they looked forward to the time when the Messiah should appear, and Israel should be saved: they beheld through the medium of Divine Revelation the child born, and the son given. They marked the circumstances of his birth, his growth in years and knowledge, his successful ministry, his tragical end, and triumphant ascension to glory; but still, they witnessed not as we do with the eye of nature the actual organization of his kingdom, or the collisions which take place between light and darkness; nor were they permitted to share either in the dangers or honors of those, who, as the "sacramental hosts of God's elect," have been led on by Him from victory to victory.

In attending to the work assigned to this Society by the Great Head of the Church, however triumphant have been their feelings resulting from spiritual successes, the history of the past has been sufficiently varied and trying to test the practical reliance of religious principle upon the guidance and deliverance of Providence. God himself dwells amongst us; and his presence is our stay and defence. It is in days of darkness and embarrassment we need to be reminded of the Church as a "Vineyard," whose Keeper watches and waters it every moment: or to a "City," whose name is, "Jehovah Shammah,—the Lord is there." To the unenlightened eye, the gathering of formidable difficulties will be attended with the fears of him who panic-struck at such a sight cried out, "Alas! my Master, how shall we do!" But to the spiritual perception, God in his own Church is a sufficient pledge of her peace and safety. However dreary her way,—“At evening tide there shall be light.” Having shared largely in the goodness of God in the year which is ending, it becomes the duty of the Society to be mindful of praise, which is comely in his sight.

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