

REPORT FOR 1863.

The events affecting the Church Society, in each succeeding year, though always important in themselves, and interesting to the members of the Church in this Diocese, are so generally uniform, or similar in character, that no report can present the attractions of novelty. Indeed it may be feared, that, in consequence of the frequent repetition of the same, or similar statements, both the Reports and Anniversaries fail in some degree of their desired profitable effect. For it ought to be ever borne in mind that the Report of a Church Society is not intended as a bare statement of facts and circumstances, nor the Anniversary Meeting an occasion and opportunity only of making and hearing speeches; but it is hoped that reported success and advancement may excite feelings of thankfulness to Almighty God and be an encouragement to further exertions, in dependence on the Divine help and blessing; while failure should convince us of our own weakness, or show where and how we have fallen short of our duty, and determine us, by God's grace, to supply deficiencies or correct defects. And if a Report is, of necessity, in the main retrospective, it is always hoped and expected that it will elicit speeches and remarks tending to promote its objects and further its designs. It is devoutly to be wished that the Society's Twenty-third Anniversary and Report may not for want of novel and striking features be regarded with indifference, or be forgotten as soon as over. The Committee hope and believe that the events and circumstances to be brought before your notice are cal-