

REPORT FOR 1882.

THE Report which your Committee have now to submit marks the completion of the 62nd year in the history of this Society—a respectable age for institutions on this side of the Atlantic. During this period great progress has been made by us, as a community, in those things that minister to the increase of wealth, civilisation, and physical well-being. And if our position as regards higher and better things than these be compared with what it was at the time when this Society was founded, the hope may be reasonably entertained that here also satisfactory progress has been made, and that the work of our various churches and Religious and Benevolent Societies has produced an enduring influence for good upon our rising national life. Among these such a Society as this must have an honourable and important position, for its great object is the dissemination of truths and principles which alone constitute a solid and abiding foundation for material prosperity and greatness. It is gratifying to your Committee to be able to assure you that this Society still enjoys the confidence and benevolent regard of the community among whom, and for whom, it exists. Amid the manifold changes that have taken place in the conditions of our social, intellectual and religious life, institutions such as this cannot remain unaffected ; yet they must not relax their efforts for good, nor yield an inch of the position they have won ; for, whilst men run to and fro, with restless activity,

“ Seeking for some great thing to do,
Or secret thing to know ; ”

and whilst books and reading-matter of every sort, and much of a very questionable sort, are increasing, as they never increased before, the duty of “ holding forth the Word of Life ” was never more imperative than it is at the present time, nor the necessity greater.

Passing on to the field of our own operations, your Committee have to report that the results of the past year have been marked by steady, if uneventful, progress. Our esteemed friend, Mr. Green, now