

REPORT.

THE past year has been to the Committee of this Mission one of special anxiety, and, at the same time, one of special interest and encouragement.

They have had cause for anxiety, because experience has shown them that the apprehensions expressed in their last Report have been fully justified. Many of their friends and supporters have found it hard to understand why the Mission should be needed. The reunion of the Northern and Southern States has been accompanied by the abolition of slavery, and fugitive slaves, therefore, are a thing of the past. What can be the meaning of a Fugitive Slave Mission? The funds have suffered in consequence.

In the last Report the Committee endeavoured to point out how mistaken the impression above alluded to is. They will only here repeat that the numbers, position, circumstances, and prospects of the coloured population in British North America, for whose benefit this Mission was instituted, have not been materially affected by the close of the war. They are still as numerous, as poor, as much a separate people, as before. If such an agency as that which this Mission endeavours to supply was ever needed, it is needed now; more so perhaps, now that the efforts of former years, by God's blessing, have produced their effect, and marks of progress encourage us to further exertions.

But if the year has been one of anxiety, it has also been one of special interest. The Committee have had opportunities of obtaining more accurate information than they before possessed as to the extent and nature of the Mission field, both from their interviews with the Rev. J. Hurst (who has been associated with the work from its earliest days) and from the minute report furnished them by their agents in London, Canada West, who, by the direction of the Committee, visited, during a three months' tour in the summer, the principal towns and districts in the western part of Upper Canada, in which the largest number of coloured people are to be found.

The result has been that the conviction has forced itself on the minds of those best acquainted with the Mission work that the present agency should be, if possible, increased, as there are places in which the coloured people are found in considerable numbers which are at present untouched by the operation of the Mission.

The following appeal, which has been issued by the Committee, will explain the objects which they desire to obtain :—