

THE TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER AT LARGE
IN LOWELL, TO THE LOWELL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of this excellent and very satisfactory report. In their Ministry at Large our friends in Lowell have evidently an institution of benevolence intelligently ordered, and worked out with that fidelity which springs from the love of God and man. Mr. Wood, the Minister at Large, says in his report,—

“The principles on which this institution has been conducted, which have been wrought out by our own experience and observation, aided by the experience and observation of others, of which we have been careful to keep ourselves informed both at home and abroad, it was proposed to spread out in detail, but the poor at the door want our time, and we will only state in general terms that they have been to lessen the miseries of poverty, to raise out of it, to *prevent* it, to open eyes to sin as a cause to awaken self-reliance, to strip off false and needless raiment and put on simple truth and industry, to bring nature and innocent amusements, and knowledge and religion to bear to this end. The reduction of poverty, a wise mercy toward all necessary poverty, but above all the *prevention* of it, have been our aim. This must be the secret of future success in public and private in this department of philanthropy. Opposite to well considered and improved system, ruinous and a shame in this time of luxury is the giving charity upon representation at the door, also the frequent hasty and, sometimes, exclusively partizan charity of religious societies, and the blind and heaping charity of some female charitable associations. When will the full light abroad break in upon the hearts of the benevolent and influence them to consistent wisdom? When too will the great expenditures of the city for the poor be controlled and directed steadily, mercifully, and by lofty views, commanding peculiar fitness and the whole time of one man,—the pauper department, like the street department, and the school department, of the government, having its superintendent? Never, until this is done, can we, or any other city, come up to the requirement of the times. The whole body of the poor should have full attention, and be regulated by the highest intelligence, and have the benefit of the experience of year upon year.”