

REPORT.

1881-1882.

WITH the Divine blessing the Society has carried on its work during the Fifty-Eighth year of its existence with encouraging proofs of success. Converting power has attended the ministry of the Word; growth in spiritual knowledge and greater maturity and fruitfulness in Christian experience have marked the history of the missionary churches organized within the boundaries of Canada, Newfoundland, and Japan, and whilst the life and power of Christ have been manifestly shown in the daily conversation of His followers, they have been seen in an especial manner in the hour of affliction and death, as the testimonies recorded in the pages of the Report give convincing evidence; nor has inattention or apathy been shown to secular interests, interwoven as they closely are with those of a spiritual nature; the building of sanctuaries, school houses, and parsonages, and the maintenance of the ministry have shared in the people's free-will offerings, according to their ability.

It will be seen by the Treasurers' Report that the Committee is now happily relieved from the encumbering debt which for several years caused so much embarrassment and inconvenience. In tendering their gratitude for this expression of love and confidence, they hope and pray for enlarged resources to carry on the work of God in the Missionary Department of the Church with greater vigour and efficiency.

In the accomplishment of any great object in secular or religious life, patience and perseverance are attributes of mind essential to success. Nothing of human invention has ever yet been brought to completeness without having to encounter innumerable perplexities and difficulties; and yet these have not disheartened the inventor, or shaken his faith in the possibilities and usefulness of his discoveries. Steam, one of the mightiest agencies under the control of man, was ushered into the world with greetings of ridicule and unbelief; and even after years of practical demonstrations of its power to stem the