

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1877.

The Trustees and Managers of the House of Industry beg to present, in accordance with the Act of Incorporation, their Annual Report. The amount of relief granted during the years 1875 and 1876 was exceptionally large, but the quantity thus far distributed this season is still more so. The increase may be attributed partly to the extreme commercial depression which has existed for some time past, and partly to an influx of applicants from the outlying municipalities and the neighbouring Republic. t

Cities, like individuals, must pay the penalty of their prosperity; if they do not directly generate poverty, they serve in a great measure to attract it. In the opinion of the Trustees, every municipality should be obliged by law to maintain its own poor. The enactment to this effect now on the Statute book is merely permissive; to be of any avail it should be made compulsory. Poor houses, prisons, and penitentiaries seem to be indispensable concomitants of modern civilization; our prisons and penitentiaries cannot be surpassed by those of any country; our poor houses are yet to be developed. In these days of progress when "many run to and fro, and knowledge is multiplied," people have become, to a great extent, cosmopolitan. Canada must not be outstripped in the race of nations; other countries make legal provision for the poor, and it really seems that we too will, from sheer necessity, soon be driven to adopt similar measures.

To obviate complaints that have sometimes been made of delay in the reception of relief, the number of visitors has