

HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

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1. THE LONDON WEST CENTRAL MISSION FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.
2. SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.
3. SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, CANADA.

GENERALLY speaking, missionary reports are not regarded as attractive reading. It is to be feared that often they are not read at all by those for whom specially they are prepared. Even in public meetings, to promote the very interests which they represent, they often seem an unwelcome guest, and are either introduced with abundant apologies and howed out as quickly as possible, or, for the encouragement of all concerned, they are quietly ignored, or remitted to domestic study. But this kind of literature is of real value, after all, and may be made both instructive and interesting. Some Chancellors of the Exchequer have made even their budget speeches not only bearable, but positively fascinating; and we have known men who, when on the missionary platform, could charm and captivate an audience with a Report. But then, they could scarcely be said to have simply read it. They had gone into it and gone through it themselves *con amore*. They had seen its wealth of fact, and noted its telling points, and points that might be made to tell, and they knew how to put their soul into it. They could speak of labors divinely blessed, and of self-denial enlisted in the best of causes, of many an act of moral heroism among both the contributors and the beneficiaries, and of Providential deliverance and spiritual power which had crowned the labors of the agents of the Society. One of the best results of such an address would be to send the hearers home with their minds full of pertinent facts, and with the