

## REPORT OF THE LADIES' COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

THE changes effected by time in the wide world of literature, fashion, and politics, engage the attention, and become sufficiently the subjects of public opinion; while the silent but important and extensive revolutions, produced by a charity school, present an attractive colouring to but a small portion of society. The impressions daily stamped on the infant mind in the course of education, and which are rapidly forming the embryo character of the man, are forgotten amid the more active and engrossing pursuits of life. But were events estimated according to the good or evil influence they exert over a community, your Committee feel, that the Institution of which they are this evening called to render an account, would unrol as bright a page as graces the register of the last year. Though at the last Annual Meeting, its prospects were represented as highly encouraging, your Committee scarcely anticipated the good success with which it has been crowned, and which now enables them to report the admittance of 361 pupils during the time it has been under their superintendence; 143 have been entered the last year; and the total number now on the list is 121, an increase of 53 since the last general meeting, and which furnishes a strong proof, that parents in the humbler walks are not averse to the education of their children; that they joyfully accept the proffered gift, which is indirectly to enrich themselves. Many of the pupils read correctly in the Testament, and others in the lower classes, are making rapid advances towards it. The uncommented reading of the Bible, so far from bewildering their minds, by presenting to them things above their comprehension, seems to be gradually producing the light of moral principle. Your Committee have been much gratified by the readiness and correctness with which the children repeat various passages of Scripture. Their minds are by this method imbued with sacred truth, and every week is adding to their store of that knowledge which can eradicate the seeds of error, and make vice feel its own impotence. In writing, their progress has been satisfactory; in arithmetic, a number of them have made tolerable proficiency; and in needle-work, an inferior, but not less useful branch, their improvement for the last few months has been such as to challenge inspection. New buoyancy has been given to the hopes and exertions of your Committee, by the arrival of Mrs. Chapman, their expected teacher, in July last; and it is with much pleasure they