

PREFACE.

ONCE more we place before the Churches the Annual Reports, and all the other miscellaneous matter that make up the Year Book. It is a few days later than last year: but yet, in moderately good time. It would have been earlier, had some of the reports come in earlier, and in presentable shape. There is no better place for making a reasonable request for next year; and it is this:—Let every Pastor and Local Secretary, who sends in an official report, buy a sheet or two more of note-paper, and, if necessary, another *stamp*, and write his report only on one side of the paper—for it is quite likely his report will find its way to the printers', as it is; and we who have the steering oar in this Congregational boat, are anxious to keep up our reputation of having an "educated ministry!" Second, let the Statistical Secretaries know whether you decline or are too indolent to answer a question—or whether your answer is "nothing" or "none." If the latter, put a cipher: if the former, leave it blank. Every Pastor and Secretary ought to make it a rule to put either a figure, cipher, or word, in every column. Then the Official Secretary will know every question is answered; and the reader that comes after him will know it too.

We are still anxious to give, *somewhere*, in the volume, to each man his proper Christian name; but we have not been able to wring the secret out of some of the brethren yet! Last year, for example, out of about 90 names of ministers on page 29 (the list more particularly under our own control), we gave 60 in full, or slightly abbreviated.