

REPORT.

It is now a little more than twenty years since City Missions were first organized in Britain. Since then they have spread both in Europe and America, till there are very few considerable towns which do not number one among their Christian institutions. That of London, which is the largest, has gradually risen in influence and in public regard, till, at present, it employs no fewer than 328 agents, and supplies missionary visits to about one half of the visitable population of that great city. Manchester employs 85, and requires only about 15 more to complete the visitation of its large population. Edinburgh employs 30, Liverpool 23, Birmingham 10, Bath 7, Norwich 7, and there are other missions in many smaller towns. That an Institution should have met with such long continued and steadily increasing favour, is the best possible argument for its efficiency. Had City Missions not been found of real and extensive value they would long ago have declined like many other philanthropic, but impracticable schemes.

A mere recollection of the design of these Missions is of itself sufficient to secure for them a general and cordial support. In every large community there is, unhappily, a section more or less numerous, who care nothing for religion, and attend no place of worship, or who, from poverty or other causes, keep themselves aloof from existing Christian congregations. Of this sad aggregate, those who are in comparatively easy circumstances need our interest only in their spiritual condition, but the large proportion who, to the neglect of every form of religion, add the aggravation of social degradation and misery, call for much more at our hands. We have abundant scope in the field presented by both classes, for the exercise of every Chris-