

REPORT.

1880-1881.

PROGRESS in laudable and philanthropic efforts to ameliorate the miseries and sufferings of the human race is a sure stimulant to zeal and benevolence. Temporary absence of success is not always an indication of an imperfect conception of the right means to accomplish a desirable and beneficial change; various hostile forces may be awakened to thwart the purest designs for the welfare of men, hence the faith and courage of the most ardent will, in such circumstances, be needed to overcome the gloomy apprehensions of the timid and faint-hearted; but when success and fruitfulness attend the instrumentality set in motion, all who are interested should partake of the inspiration thereby created, and readily unite in continuous efforts for the maintenance of an agency which has been crowned with success.

Within the fifty-six years of the Society's Missionary life, its days of depression and difficulty have principally originated with an insufficient income, sometimes affected by general commercial derangement, abridging resources for the support of Missions undertaken in times of commercial prosperity. Happily the past year has been marked by an increase upon its predecessor, but still largely beneath the wants of the work in which the Society is engaged. Of its religious character the Committee have always had to speak in the language of encouragement and hope. Apostolic and Church history warn us to expect diversity of success: the sower scatters the seed, but the harvest has not always met cherished expectations; birds of prey, unfruitful soil, or unfavourable elements have limited, to some extent, the production anticipated, but no place has been entirely barren. From Japan to Newfoundland, when examining every spot occupied by the Society's labourers, with devout humility and heart-