

REPORT.

The 23rd Annual Meeting was held according to regulation in the City Hall on the evening of the 23rd January, 1873; but the attendance being small, (probably owing to the inclemency of the weather) after prayer and consultation it was adjourned.

The next meeting was held in St. George's Hall on the evening of the 20th March. The weather was a second time unpropitious and the audience below average, but it was necessary to proceed. After prayer and singing a hymn, the Chairman addressed the audience and the Report was read, etc. Interesting speeches were delivered by Rev. R. V. Rogers and Rev. T. Bone. By resolution of the meeting the Report was to be printed and circulated, but the lateness of the season and other circumstances prevented. The chief parts of it will be embodied in this Report which will include the materials of two years.

In 1872 an attempt was made by a deputation of the Temperance organizations to influence the Board of Police Commissioners to reduce the number of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors within the city. A petition signed by some 160 persons, was presented, and hope held out by the Commissioners that a considerable reduction would be effected. A counter petition was presented by grocers and others, which was successful in altering the purpose of the Board, and things remain as they were (a miserable state indeed), with a public house for every 140 of the inhabitants, the prolific source of drunkenness and crimes of all sorts. An effort was also made by the deputation to have a strict surveillance of the police secured against the sale of liquors on the Sabbath and consequent breaches of the peace, with what effect is not known.

As far back as 1850, in one of the earliest public addresses of the society which issued from the press, the following resolution of the Committee appeared: "At a recent meeting of the Committee of our Sabbath Reformation Society it was resolved