

REPORT.

It was a question asked once by an old Powaw at the close of one of the Apostle Eliot's public services among the Massachusetts' Indians: "Why, seeing the English had been in the land twenty-seven years, they had never taught the Indians to know God till now?"—A question to which the only answer that should have been given was returned—that "the English did repent that they were not more earnest at the first to seek their salvation, but were now striving to redeem the time." If not put to us in so many words by an Indian, yet, with equal force, this question has risen in the consciences of many amongst us within the last few years, and, we rejoice to say, has issued in the same earnest effort to redeem, as far as possible, the neglect not of twenty seven years, but of nearly a hundred. The Micmac Missionary Society has now completed the fourth year of its existence, and by its growing vigour shows how sincere is the anxiety, in this and the neighbouring Provinces, to benefit, at least at this late day, the Indian population.

In speaking thus of the encouraging prospects of the Society, the Committee would carefully guard against contributing in any way to raise exaggerated expectations. They have no startling communications to make of the abandonment of hereditary superstitions and vices, or the true christianization of the wandering and degraded objects of their labours. There is only a plain and unromantic story of patience and faithfulness tried in the past and needed more and more in the future, but, at the same time, cheered by a gathering dawning of success. The face of the heavens begins to be seen where once all was hidden. There is no such thing as the instantaneous flashing of the day upon the natural landscape, nor should it be hoped for on the moral. In the economy of grace as of that of nature, God's purposes advance along the pathway of fixed laws, and are realized only by a gradual and often slow development. His going forth among men is 'prepared as the morning,' the light of which overflows and drinks up the