

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL MEETING,

HELD IN THE

HALL OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, ON FRIDAY EVENING,
JANUARY 9, 1863.

His Honor Judge PARKER, President of the Society, in the Chair,

The proceedings commenced with singing some verses of the
108th Psalm, announced by the President,

["O God, my heart is fully bent
To magnify thy name; &c."]

Rev. Mr. Bennett then read the 67th Psalm and uttered an appropriate prayer.

The President commenced his address by a few appropriate remarks, referring to the feeling of deep gratitude with which we should remember the mercies so especially vouchsafed to us during the past year, comparing our case with that of other countries. The past year had been one of great excitement, and of some extraordinary events. In our mother country, while in one part there was the great International Exhibition, collecting and exhibiting the finest works of nature and of art, and men of all nations and tongues had come to witness them, in another part there was extreme destitution and suffering among the manufacturing population—thousands and tens of thousands idle, not through sloth or sickness, but for want of the material to work with, on which so many depended—yet all conducting themselves in the most exemplary manner, without crime, without riot or disturbance, or even political gatherings, as in former days, almost without complaint, receiving gratefully the help afforded them, and acknowledging that masters as well as men were suffering by one common calamity. Yet all this suffering, we had reason to hope, would, in the providence of God, be but temporary, and result in good. Throughout the British Provinces new fields for the growth of cotton were sought out and were multiplying. In the distressed districts, schools were open of all sorts, instruction given by the neigh-