

REPORT.

THE Central Board of the "Halifax Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor" submit this their Eighth Annual Report.

The two departments of the Association work are the stone breaking at the shed on the Common, and the relief given at the houses of the poor that are visited by the district visitors. As to the first the test is perhaps rude and inadequate to all cases, but it is the only test that has ever been systematically tried in Halifax to distinguish between those who are willing and those who are unwilling to work.

The stone shed was in operation sixteen weeks and employed during that time an average of sixty men, most of them heads of families. The average wages earned by these men was \$3 a week. The city has, as in former years, bought the stone, and this department has been made self-sustaining, but intimation has been given that in 1875 only a limited amount of broken stone will be bought by the city, or about half as much as was broken last winter. A serious difficulty therefore arises that ought to be faced. Here are men willing to work for a scanty wage, at very uninviting labor, and yet the work cannot be given them. We can employ little more than half as many as we employed last winter. They must be fed; and it will cost much more if they go into the Poor's House, or beg from door to door, while the indirect evils of degrading and pauperizing them are still worse. This is surely a serious matter for the consideration of the city authorities. Instead of diminishing the amount of work given, we would gladly extend it to other kinds, so as to reach all the necessitous classes, and thus give relief only in the shape of wages, except in the case of sickness.

As to the relief given at the houses of the poor by the