

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

"To set at liberty them that are bruised."—Luke iv: 18.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."—Psa. cxxvi: 5.

This beautiful work of loosing from the fetters of sinful habits our wronged and neglected sisters is our work; and this gracious assurance that, like God's rainbow of promise, spans our sky, and reflects, even through our tears of sadness and discouragement, the radiant brightness of the Saviour's love, speaks to us of the joy that awaits those who share in the Master's travail of soul over earth's lost and erring ones.

On the threshold of the new institution year we are compelled to pause and answer many and solemn heart questionings. For whom has the work been done? Have we done it faithfully and unselfishly, with a single eye to God's glory? Have we ourselves been growing in grace and spiritual power? Has the work of the Lord prospered in our hands? And if some good has been done, and if some precious ones have been led to seek a new heart and to lead a new life, why not more? As we look back, and around, and forward there would come to us a crushing sense of inefficiency and of failure, but for the cheering power of that gracious promise, "In due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."

"To set at liberty them that are bruised." This is Christ's own work delegated to us. But what a picture! What a photograph, in a word, of our poor women and girls! "Them that are *bruised*." Six hundred and thirty-two, including eighty-four little children, have come to us during the year. We can easily count their numbers and recall their names and faces, but who shall count for us the weary strife against poverty, the long, hard struggles against the cruel fires of fierce temptation, the pitiful protests against sorrow and pain and the anguish of loneliness ere ever the path of sin was entered; and then the soul-writhings of remorse, desolation and despair. Bruised indeed they are, aye torn and bleeding, and only the Good Physician can bring to them the blessed, blood-bought healing that is needed. "None but Jesus can do these helpless sinners good;" but we to whom He has said, "Go work among the fallen and perishing, by the hedges and in the dark corners of my vineyard," have the privilege of bringing each of these bruised ones within the charmed circle of helpful Christian influence, where she can learn of her Heavenly Father's love, and of His mighty power to save; and where she can feel the reflected sweetness of that love in the kindness of those about her. We have not had so many admissions this year as we had last, but we have seemed to be more crowded because larger numbers have stayed for longer periods. In many cases this was a hopeful sign, giving evidence of a desire to be protected against themselves, and from the temptations to which their weakness exposed them. And who can