

is of very great value; and we should be glad to see it embodied in the large Report as well.

We turn over these pages with devout gratitude to Almighty God. As a Church we have been led to engage in missionary work that has been adapted to our position and circumstances, that has been, by the Divine blessing, an eminent success, and that promises to be of increasing value in the future. There is evidence here of faithful, patient, Christian toil. As a general rule, the agents of this society must be men and women of thorough devotion to the cause of Christ, and many of them have, all unconsciously, by their labors and their sufferings reached the position of Christian heroes. "They are the glory of Christ."

Two things, however, cause us regret. First, there is a lack of method, or of interest, or of sense of obligation in regard to reports from several of the missions. Such entries as the following are not satisfactory: "Again we are without a report from ——. It is very rarely that tidings of any kind concerning this mission are received at the Mission Rooms. We have no reports from — or —." Where hundreds of dollars are annually granted to such missions there ought to be some information in regard to the state of the work.

But a second matter is still more serious. In a good many instances it would seem that confessed spiritual prosperity does not result in numerical strength, or in the ability or desire to assume an independent position. "A claims success in every department, and yet there is a decline of twenty-one in membership." "B, with a membership of 200, should go off the fund." "From C comes cheering news of glorious revivals, and improvements all along the line of Church work, but somehow the membership does not increase." People will read and think about what is found on page xlii., and will doubtless come to the conclusion, "such cases demand careful scrutiny from the Board." Thoughtful men are apt to diminish rather than increase their contributions over such revelations; and for the circuits respectively themselves there is nothing so weakening as a state of dependence upon the Mission Fund.

On the other hand, the Report shows a large amount of