

Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society.

The reports for the year ending December 1st were at length issued last week, in neat pamphlet form. From the report of the treasurer, Mr. Reckendorfer, we learn that the entire receipts have been \$301,418.13, inclusive of \$20,000 received from Paris since Dec. 1st. The expenses have amounted to \$249,482.56. Balance in hand \$61,935.57. Of the expenses, the Vineland colony cost \$11,960.42, Cotopaxi, \$10,233.57, general expenses, \$18,623.61, including salaries, \$10,553.16, \$12,718.21 was paid to out of town local committees, \$2,761.81 went to pay travelling expenses of agents, \$4,000 to complete the Schiff Refuge on Ward's Island. In addition, during the year board and lodging cost \$38,701.25, Ward's Island, \$28,931.43, transportation and baggage, \$37,986.26, Relief, \$26,570.45, clothing, \$14,499.28, Brooklyn Refuge, \$7,934.66, Greenwich Street restaurant, \$2,702.08, a total of \$157,385.41. Of the receipts, Mr. Schiff's Russian Relief Fund brought in \$57,517.49, individual donations, \$96,487.47, the Alliance furnished \$60,999.55, the Mansion House Fund, \$32,870.87, the Berlin committee, \$31,614.30, Purim Association, \$6,500.00, Russian picnic, \$7,419.40, San Francisco, \$2,500.00.

In the President's report, Mr. Henry gives a favorable exhibit of the society's workings, and presents an exceedingly interesting history of the emigration movement, which is too fresh in the minds of our readers to need further mention. He writes hopefully of Vineland and Cotopaxi, although Mr. Saltiel, in his letter published in the MESSENGER two weeks ago, declares the latter colony to be a failure. No mention is made of the New Orleans colony, or the attempts recently made in Cincinnati to organize agricultural settlements. The report does full justice to the zeal of several of the directors, who have devoted so much time and labor to the cause, Messrs. L. Gershel, L. Rosenfeld, S. Rossin, L. S. Rosenstiel, M. Tuska, J. H. Hoffman, E. Lauterbach. There are no statistics to show the exact number of emigrants arrived, or where they are at present located, although the statement is made that 14,000 men, women and children have been under the charge of the society, of whom five hundred are now on Ward's Island, one hundred in Brooklyn, one hundred and twenty at Estelleville, three hundred in Vineland and one thousand still dependent in New York, and about one thousand shipped back to Europe. The many difficulties and annoyances experienced are referred to, and after the statement that the directors "will gladly hail the day when their voluntary services will be no longer needed," Mr. Henry thus concludes:

"If to face and surmount difficulties of no ordinary character, supported by no friendly press on the other side of the Atlantic, and by not as much sympathy on the part of all the Jewish journals on this side as might have been reasonably expected, if to be harassed by comments of private judgment generally unfavorable to the poor people committed to our charge, and yet to be able to show as a result the placing of over ten thousand of them, ignorant besides of our language and our civilization, in a condition favorable to their entire self support, is not a successful refutation to charges of cruelty, neglect and mismanagement, we do not know what is.

These refugees came to our shores generally in rags, and in a condition bordering on despair, engendered by the loss of home and everything which makes life of value. Many are to-day in a fair way to realize success in this new country of their adoption. It speaks well for them that so large a proportion of the emigrants have become thus settled, and because a few of them have been unruly and at times hardly spoken of, it is unfair to characterize these Russian refugees, as a class, as anything but a good, hardworking, God-fearing set of people.

To conclude, I thank you personally for the confidence reposed in me, who am really, perhaps, the least competent of your Executive Committee, my business avocations occupying so much of my time. I accepted the position to which your directors were kind enough to elect me very unwillingly, and should long ago have insisted on resigning but for the moral obligation I considered incumbent on me, to help, in however poor a way, to further the end we had set out to perform—the settlement in this country of such of the Russian exiles as adverse fate and cruel persecution had driven to our shores."