Baird Smith's work on Indian Irrigation, and the appendix to the same officer's work on Italian Irrigation. It is also commonly said that the taxation of India is oppressive. This is not difficult to prove; the difficulty is to find any country in the world of which the same is not true. But the revenue system of India, like that of this country, has been greatly improved during the last twenty years.

It is true I have drawn largely on the authority of Sir Thomas Munro, who closed his career more than twenty years ago; but this is not for facts that may be true at one time and not at another, but for principles that must always guide the revenue administration of India, until European methods and principles are fully introduced; and the disastrous blunder of Lord Cornwallis's Permanent Settlement proves that this is not to be done at once.

The restoration of general peace in India took place in 1818, three years after the same event in Europe. In India, as well as in Britain, several years elapsed before the work of internal improvement began. This in Britain may be dated from 1832, and in India from 1834. It was in 1834 that the "village settlement" of the Delhi and Agra province was commenced, and a beginning thus made of a reform in the land tenures and taxation of all parts of India that are not included in the Permanent Settlement; and it was about the same time, if not earlier, that the restoration was commenced of those works of irrigation which had fallen into decay during a century of anarchy, and had not been restored, as they ought to have been, immediately on our conquest of the country.

The idea appears to have got into some minds, that the present revolt is a proof of bad government. On this subject we have the testimony of the insurgents themselves in their proclamations. They do not complain of the Company's administration: they attack it as a foreign and conquering government, which we know that it is; and as a proselytising government, which we know that it is not. If the revolt were caused by misgovernment it would not have broken out in the Delhi and Agra province, which is one of the best governed parts of India, but in Madras, which is probably the worst.

An attempt is made in the April number of the Westminster Review to discredit the alleged misgovernment of Oude. On this subject the evidence of Sir William Sleeman's recent work is sufficient; he describes a state of anarchy which in a country less favoured by nature would have destroyed the population. Sir William Sleeman is an eye-witness and knows the country well; and he is impartial, because he was opposed to the annexation of Oude; he wished to interfere for the restoration of order, but in a less violent manner.


ELEVENTH SESSION—FOURTH MEETING.

[19th April, 1858.]

The Society met at the Royal Dublin Society House, James Haughton, Esq., in the chair.

Henry Dix Hutton, Esq., read a paper entitled, "The Working of Tribunals of Commerce composed of one legal and two commercial judges, as exhibited in the Hamburg Tribunal; founded on communications received from Dr. Versmann, the vice-president of that court."

Professor Cairnes, for Ferdinand Loughrane, Esq., read a paper on "Decimal Coinage, Weights, and Measures."
FIFTH MEETING.

[17th May, 1858.]

The Society met at the Royal Dublin Society House, Mountifort Longfield, LL.D., in the chair.

Robert McDonnell, Esq., M.D., read a paper entitled "The Statistics of Small-pox and Vaccination in Ireland."