

and useful work in which we are engaged. We may vainly try to imagine the blind probing after the truth, the continual liability to serious, economic, and administrative errors that must attend the progress or regress of a country where nothing is known statistically respecting either trade or commerce, shipping or railways, taxation or revenue, wealth, industry, vital and economic condition, or general social well-being. If we look on this picture and on that, we shall, I think, be ready to admit that the drawbacks and inconveniences attending 'not too many statistics, but just enough,' are as nothing in comparison with those that would result from anything short of this attainment."

I now come to the conclusion of my address for which I claim no originality, though the preparation of it has involved a good deal of reading. This I am far from regretting as it has been the means of giving me a knowledge,—it may be superficial—of the origin, methods, and uses of statistics which I did not before possess. This knowledge must be useful to me as a member of a society such as this is. It enables me to understand and appreciate more thoroughly the labours of those who have worked in the rich mine of statistical facts and have exhumed therefrom conclusions of inestimable value as a reliable guide to the politician, the philanthropist, and the statesman, in their efforts to improve, ameliorate, and alleviate the moral, social, and religious condition of mankind. What nobler object could any society or individual have in view? It stimulates and hallows the efforts of the sociological labourer, and induces him to display increased application and accuracy in his investigations, and more critical care in the deductions he arrives at when he thinks of the noble end he desires to attain. I trust this society will long continue to flourish, and that its numbers will increase and multiply, and prove to be the pioneers of as many important and beneficial social reforms in the future, as their predecessors have inaugurated in the past.

VI.—*Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.*

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION.

FIRST MEETING.

[Friday, 18th December, 1891.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, the President in the chair.

The Rev. T. A. Finlay, F.R.U.I., read a paper entitled, "Co-operative Agricultural Societies in Germany."

SECOND MEETING.

[Tuesday, 12th January, 1892.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, the President in the chair.

Messrs. FitzHenry and Redmond, the candidates for the Barrington Lectureship in Political Economy, read papers on the subject of "Self Help *v.* State Help."

A ballot having been held, Mr. FitzHenry was declared elected to the vacant lectureship.

#### THIRD MEETING.

[Tuesday, 16th February, 1892.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, the President in the chair.

Miss Rosa M. Barrett read a paper entitled, "Legislation on behalf of Neglected Children in America and elsewhere."

#### FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 15th March, 1892.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, the President in the chair.

Mr. Joseph John Murphy read a paper entitled "A Suggestion or the Fusion of the two Branches of the Legal Profession."

Mr. William Lawson, LL.D., read a paper entitled, "The Fusion of the two Branches of the Legal Profession."

#### FIFTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 24th May, 1892.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, Mr. Henry Dix Hutton, Vice-President, in the chair.

The President, Mr. Wm. Findlater, D.L., delivered his Address. The ballot having been scrutinized, W. F. Webb, LL.B., Lond., was declared elected a member of the Society.

#### SIXTH MEETING.

[Monday, 27th June, 1892.]

The Society met at the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35 Molesworth-street, the President in the chair.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. James McDonnell, seconded by Mr. Commissioner Lynch, and passed:—

"That the undermentioned distinguished Political Economists and Jurists who are about to visit this city in order to take part in the Tercentenary Celebrations in the University of Dublin, be elected Honorary Members of the Society: J. Bryce, D.C.L., Regius Professor Civil Law, Oxford; L. Cossa, Pavia; F. Y. Edgeworth, Professor Political Economy, Oxford; T. E. Holland, Professor International Law, Oxford; — Hondt, Brussels; E. J. James, Pennsylvania; P. Leroy-Beaulieu, Paris; G. F. Martens, St. Petersburg; Sir F. Pollock, Professor Jurisprudence, Oxford; Léon Say, Paris.

The ballot for the election of Officers and Council for the session having been closed, the result was announced as follows :—James G. Alcorn, William F. Bailey, Richard M. Barrington, LL.B., Professor Bastable, Richard R. Cherry, George Coffey, B.L., Rev. T. A. Finlay, F.R.U.I., William Lawson, LL.D., Joseph Maguire, R. E. Matheson, C. Murphy, R. J. Newell, Edward O'Farrell, B.L., Jonathan Pim, George Sigerson, M.D.

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