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I.—Report of the Council at the opening of the Seventeenth Session.

Read Wednesday, 18th November, 1863.]

IF in all else the condition of this Society at the commencement of the session offer abundant matter for congratulation, the loss present to the mind of every member, which the death of its late venerated president, His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, has inflicted upon it, cannot be over-estimated.

“The father of political economy in this country,” (as he had been aptly designated) and its munificent patron, the wise advocate of the prudent extension of its principles to every social problem, the enlightened promoter of every social good, he honoured this Society, whose aim was to investigate social questions and to give to the true principles of economic science a practical development, by according to it his favour, his guardianship, and his guidance from its earliest institution.

The memory of the late Archbishop Whately, and of his services to this Society, demand recognition other than this mention of the large debt of gratitude which the cause of social science in this country owes to him; and with that view the Council have requested the Honorary Secretaries to lay an obituary notice of him before the present meeting.

In the report which was presented by the Council to the Society at the commencement of the last session, attention was particularly directed to new arrangements which had been made for carrying out the objects had by the original founders of the Society in 1847, namely, “to keep Ireland on a par with the rest of the empire in the knowledge of the various branches of social science.”

In the address with which the Solicitor General inaugurated the

session, he showed how he and the other founders of the Society had reason to congratulate themselves upon the success of their attempt, and how the Society "had kept pace with the enlargement and development of social science itself." It was in the furtherance of those useful objects, and of that extended action, that the recent changes in the constitution of the Society were made—changes carefully considered and deliberately carried out, involving as they do greatly increased expense in the operations of the Society, and greatly increased responsibility to those entrusted with its management.

At the opening, therefore, of this, the seventeenth annual session, the Council may be pardoned if they dwell with some satisfaction on the results of the new arrangements, in the work which has been done during the past session.

The Society had the honour at its opening meeting of receiving His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and of finding sanction and encouragement in his wise counsel. The eloquent words in which His Excellency expressed his sense of the merit and the utility of such associations as this, lost none of their persuasiveness or their force in the feeling impressed upon every listener, that to the correction of social disorders, the extension of human knowledge, to the promotion of every benevolent and philanthropic work, the aid of the elevated and influential position and of the enlarged and cultivated intelligence of him who was then addressing the meeting had never been withheld.

The kind wishes expressed by His Excellency in regard to this Society have not been in vain. An addition of over fifty new names to the roll of members may doubtless be attributed to increasing interest in the objects of the Society; the enrolment of several associates will, it is believed, tend to the extension through the provinces of the information collected; an increase in the number of contributions—twenty papers having been read during the session—gives evidence of the activity with which subjects are sought for and investigations pursued; whilst in the very large attendance, averaging over eighty on each of the twelve nights of the session, proof may be found of the unabated interest which the matters discussed in the Society excite.

Preparatory to the commencement of the business of the session, the Council distributed to the members a list of topics suggested for investigation and discussion in each the departments into which the business of the Society has been divided; namely, (1) Jurisprudence and the amendment of the Law, including the subjects of the Punishment and Reformation of Criminals; (2) Social Science, including Education; and Political Economy, including the principles of Trade and Commerce; and (3) Public Health and Sanitary Reform. Whilst many of the topics suggested have been treated of during the session, by the publication of the list in the Journal of the Society, a means of future reference has been provided for, so that further elucidation may be stimulated.

PAPERS READ DURING THE SESSION.

Early in the session, Archbishop Whately stated the views ex-

pressed by himself and Mr. Nassau W. Senior in a conversation upon Secondary Punishments, a subject which for particular reasons at that time largely occupied public attention. The remedies which appeared to His Grace to be necessary and likely to deter men of brutal natures from the commission of crime attended with violence have been printed in full in the *Journal of the Society*, in which has also appeared an abstract of the views expressed by the different speakers in the discussion which took place upon His Grace's paper, and upon one contributed by one of your honorary secretaries, Mr. Edward Gibson, on Secondary Punishments and Tickets of Leave, in which he explained how by the present system of prison discipline in Ireland, it was sought to convince each criminal that he could by his own conduct influence his own fate, and to coerce his mind to act with the system by the fear of punishment and the hope of reward.

It may be remarked that the subject of His Grace's paper came under the attention of the legislature during the last session, and that in the month of July an Act (26 and 27 Vic. cap. 44) was passed, by which, in cases of robbery from the person with violence, or assaults with intent to rob, a discretion is given to the court to add to the punishment awarded to such offences by existing acts, the further punishment, in cases of male offenders, of whipping.

In some interesting observations upon so-called moral insanity in criminals, Dr. Robert McDonnell directed attention to the difficulty which exists in drawing a line between what was vice in fact, and what was but a form of mental disease leading to the commission of crime; and suggested the means of making better provision for bringing before the jury the actual mental condition of the person on trial, by associating with the court an experienced psychological physician.

The Land Question formed the subject of some important papers. Mr. Henry Dix Hutton, taking as a fundamental principle that property is a social institution, expressed his conviction that the question of tenant-right could only be appreciated when viewed as part of the entire land question. The first paper read by that gentleman directed attention to the relation of landlord and tenant in England, and explained the principles involved in the English tenant-right, and the relation which it bore to the land problem in Ireland. In a second paper Mr. Hutton submitted propositions towards legislation for effecting land improvement and employment in Ireland, by the private capital of owners and occupiers. A valuable addition to these elaborate and able investigations was made by Mr. David Ross, in which, having explained what was the precise nature of the Ulster Tenant Right, he suggested the introduction into the relations of landlord and tenant in that province, of a modification which he believed would work advantageously to both parties, and he recommended the extension of the system so modified to the other provinces of Ireland. The *Journal of the Society* placed in the hands of the members these important papers very shortly after each had been delivered.

An omission from the subjects treated of in the papers just referred to, namely, the question of property in trees planted by the tenant, was subsequently supplied by Mr. Samuel M. Greer. He

showed that, inasmuch as the great majority of Irish tenants hold only from year to year, they were excluded from the benefits secured by the statutes having reference to the registration of trees; and he advocated such a change in the law, as, by giving to the occupiers of land a right of property in trees planted by them, would not only permit but encourage tenant-farmers and occupiers of land to plant trees.

The difference in the tenure of land in this country and in France and Switzerland was dwelt upon by Mr. James Haughton, in an interesting account of his observations during a continental tour, as the chief cause of greater immunity from pauperism in the countries mentioned.

The only act of the legislature during the last session relating to this subject which seems to require notice, is that (26 and 27 Vic. cap. 62) by which no growing crops or vegetable matters not severed from the land and soil can be seized under any civil bill decree issued after the passing of the act, 21st July, 1863.

The important subject of the Registration of the Titles to Land formed the matter of a discussion raised upon an explanation of the method in which the transfer of land has been carried on in the Australian colonies. It will be remembered that in a former session the proposal to the legislature at Melbourne of such a system, and the particulars of that project, were communicated to this Society by Mr. Charles E. Bagot. In the present session, through the originator of the system in operation there, Mr. Robert R. Torrens, Registrar General of South Australia, and through another distinguished Irishman who had filled the high office of Governor of that colony, Sir Richard Graves McDonnell, the Society had the advantage of the fullest exposition of the plan which the most accurate personal knowledge of its details and working could afford. In the discussion which ensued, the applicability of such a system to the registration of assurances in this country was criticised by the Solicitor General for Ireland and others, whose large practical acquaintance with the difficulties attending the amendment of the existing system gave weight to the views which they expressed.

That the Ordnance Survey should be the basis of land registration in this country was advocated by Mr. Thomas A. Dillon, whose paper maintained that much of the existing difficulty in the correct registration of assurances would be obviated by rendering compulsory the use of the Ordnance Survey names, in all legal documents dealing with the denominations of land the subject of registration.

Upon other subjects connected with our colonies some interesting information was offered by the following papers:—Mr. Charles E. Bagot, explaining the management of crown lands in our Australian colonies, and the appropriation of the revenues arising from them, and particularly the ordinances issued by the Colonial Office in 1832, under which all lands were publicly sold, and the proceeds appropriated to the promotion of a wholesome emigration, took exception to the alteration which the colonial legislature had since made; and, insisting that the crown lands of all the colonies are imperial property, he considered that the revenues arising from

them should be expended on imperial objects connected with the colonies, that is to say, on emigration, and in defraying national expenditure on account of the colonies.

The subject of emigration was further developed by Mr. R. Denry Urlin, whose paper examined the plan for promoting the emigration of women to the colonies, as proposed by Miss Rye; and Mr. Robert F. Clokey, who, confining his observations to the female emigration from workhouses, brought forward a large body of official authorities and other valuable statistics, to support his statement that the emigration of females from the workhouses of Ireland, and under the poor law statutes, had resulted in relieving the public at home from a serious burden, and at the same time in benefitting the colonies.

Upon the subject of education, the Society was indebted to Mr. W. Pollard Urquhart, M.P., and to Dr. Shaw, F.T.C.D., for valuable communications. The paper of the former gentleman expressed his views upon the effects of competitive examinations for public offices upon education generally and the educational establishments of the United Kingdom; whilst an extension of the competitive system was advocated by Dr. Shaw, as the best educational machine for the improvement of school education in Ireland. Having considered a proposal made to this Society in a former session by Mr. Urlin, intended to supply to some extent the want of intermediate education in Ireland, Dr. Shaw expressed his opinion in favour of yearly competitive examinations, conducted under highly qualified supervision simultaneously in the principal cities and towns. Prizes to be awarded according to a system of marks would, he believed, fully provide for the education of the middle classes simply and economically.

Some useful reforms in the Civil Service formed the subject of a paper by Mr. Frederick W. Connor, in which, having taken exception to the fragmentary nature of the classification and salaries of persons employed in that department of the public service, and to the uncertainty of the regulations as to their promotion, he advocated that offices should be grouped according to their importance, with a corresponding scale of payments; that promotion from class to class should be facilitated; the disparity between the rates of payment in the London and Dublin offices corrected; and that all public offices should be subjected to periodical Treasury inspection.

The educational wants of the deaf and dumb, and the provision made for them in Ireland, formed the subject of the first paper with which the Society has been favoured by any of its lady associates. The humane purpose which the writer, Mrs. Charlotte Stoker, had in view was, to expose how limited and insufficient is the provision made for this afflicted class, and to advocate the necessity of a state provision for them; and this good purpose must have been aided by the discussion which the paper gave rise to, the information afforded by one of the Census Commissioners, Dr. W. R. Wilde, and of other persons instructed on the subject, and by the public attention thus drawn upon the objects of Mrs. Stoker's benevolent interest.

From Professor Houston the Society received an explanation of his views on what is called permissive legislation, his observations

having special reference to the principle and policy of the bill proposed for the suppression of the liquor traffic by the United Kingdom Alliance.

A matter of considerable importance to persons entitled to trust moneys invested in the public funds was brought under notice by Mr. Henry T. Dix, who pointed out that the present mode of investigating such moneys was often instrumental in inflicting much pecuniary injury upon individuals, and that this could easily be remedied by an alteration which his paper suggested.

The only other paper which remains to be noticed was one contributed by Mr. Heron, Q.C., upon the Salmon Fisheries of Ireland, and brought before the Society at a time when the subject was attracting much public attention. The suggestions of the learned writer with reference to legislation on this great and undeveloped source of Irish wealth, and a former consideration of this subject in the session of 1860-61, when the fishery laws of Ireland were very fully discussed by another member (Mr. W. L. Joynt), form not unimportant contributions to that large body of information and that very general discussion which preceded the enactment which passed the legislature during the last session (26 and 27 Vic. cap. 114).

RECENT LEGISLATION AFFECTING IRELAND.

To a share in furthering another act (cap. 11) of the last session a measure involving the very greatest and most advantageous social results, the Society can confidently lay claim. From the time when, in June, 1858, a committee was appointed to investigate the question of a General Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths in Ireland, to the last session, when in his address the Solicitor General gave expression to the hope that before long we should see removed the reproach under which Ireland laboured, that she was the only country in Europe without a registration of births and deaths, in the various discussions upon the plans submitted to parliament, this Society did not lose sight of this important subject, nor miss any opportunity of furthering the enactment of a measure of so great social importance. Without referring to the aid given elsewhere by members of this Society to the task of solving the difficulties which surrounded the question, and of devising arrangements calculated to render the new system popular and efficient, the Council may particularize how in 1859 the attention of the Society was directed, by Dr. Robert McDonnell, to the connexion which a registration system had with any efficient system of vaccination, and how in the following year the ways and means of attaining the object were fully discussed in a paper by Mr. Arthur Moore. On the measure which will come into operation on the first day of the coming year, it may be interesting and satisfactory to state that it contains every provision which, in the opinion of the committee of this Society in 1858, would be necessary to secure a complete registration of births and deaths in Ireland. Moreover, an important provision for the sanitary protection of the population has followed the enactment just referred to. Another act (26 and 27 Vic. cap. 52), provides for the compulsory vaccination of all children born after the 1st of January,

1864. With respect to the registration of marriages, an act (cap. 9c) has also been passed establishing a system of registration of such marriages as are not within the provisions of the statute 7 & 8 of the Queen. The law of marriage, as settled by the act just mentioned, was also amended in the last session (cap 27). The provisions regulating registration are in accordance with the views set forth in the report of this Society with respect to that part of the subject. No formalities are enjoined as conditions affecting the legal validity of marriages; the object of the statute is confined to procuring a record of each marriage when solemnized. This act will also come under operation on the 1st day of January next.

One further matter connected with this subject remains to be noticed. It was the opinion of the committee, that so long as a penalty existed upon the celebration of mixed marriages by Roman Catholic clergymen, a complete return by them of such marriages could not reasonably be expected. The disability to celebrate such marriages, and the penalty—the clergyman being declared guilty of felony, and liable to transportation or penal servitude—it was the opinion of the committee should be repealed. As yet this has not been the subject of legislation, but it may be permitted to recal attention to what seemed to the former committee of this Society a vital element in the final settlement of the question.

Certain other subjects which have from time to time engaged the attention of the Society have also been legislated upon during the last session. In relation to Savings Banks, the new statute (26 and 27 Vic. cap. 87), consolidates the acts previously in force, and makes some amendments in the laws relating to these institutions. The laws affecting Post Office Savings Banks have also been the subject of amendments calculated to extend their efficiency (cap. 14).

As long since as January, 1860, Dr. Hancock brought under the notice of the Society the case of the Journeymen Bakers; and the evils in the existing system which he then exposed so strongly attracted popular attention as to be the subject of a continued agitation in this country, until the government entrusted to a special commissioner the investigation of the practice of the trade, and the habits resulting therefrom of the people employed in bakehouses. By an act taking effect from the date of its receiving the royal assent, 13th July last, (26 and 27 Vic. cap. 40) regulations are made limiting the hours of labour of young persons employed in bakehouses, and providing for the cleanliness and ventilation of such places.

By the labours of the last session of parliament it will be seen, then, that much has been done towards the moral and sanitary improvement of this country, and the advancement of its material prosperity. In a Society whose aims are the elucidation of social and economic truths, and whose ends are the elevation and the prosperity of all humankind, but in particular of our own people and our own country, the advances thus made towards better government must be a subject of earnest congratulation. But this feeling is enhanced by the sense that active, unceasing, and laborious efforts by this Society have been made to further the good ends now attained.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

The Council have to report that they have resolved to declare corresponding members of the Society such consuls of foreign powers as may be resident in Dublin, but who are not natives of this country. This step will, doubtless, receive the full approval of the members at large, as it promises to afford to intelligent and influential foreigners the means of acquiring much information upon our social condition, and opens to this Society a means of amicable intercourse with those in foreign countries, who may take interest in such investigations as those upon which this Society is engaged. Under this resolution, the consul for France (Mons. Livio), the consul for Italy (Signor Marani), and the consul for the United States (Mr. Hammond) were declared corresponding members.

BARRINGTON LECTURES.

In the management of the Barrington fund for providing lecturers upon Political Economy, the council granted a course of lectures to each of the following places :—Larne, Londonderry, and Limerick ; two courses were also delivered in the Hall of the Friends' Literary Institute, Dublin. The subjects which the lecturer (Mr. A. M. Porter) selected were of a practical kind, topics of the day being used to illustrate general principles, and in this manner he has, in the opinion of the Council, borne fully in mind the particular object of the benevolent founder, namely, to diffuse the knowledge of the principles which should regulate the conduct and duty of people to one another. The general nature of the subjects treated of in the lectures for the past year may be indicated by the following :—

The law of free trade in relation to commerce and to labour ;—the nature of money, and the effect of modern gold discoveries ;—the conditions of national prosperity in relation to Population ;—Emigration ;—Taxation ;—the Galway Contract ;—our Postal System ;—Public Subsidies ;—Work and Wages, with special reference to Irish Industry ;—Results of Co-Operative Organization ;—Schemes for providing Employment for Women ;—the Irish Land Question Stated ;—Tenant Right ;—the Irish Poor Law ;—Public Charities ;—the Social Condition of Ireland, as evidenced by recent Statistics of Population and of Agriculture.

Out of the applications sent in, the council selected those from the Mayor and inhabitants of Belfast, from Cork (the Catholic Young Men's Society), and from Clonmel (the Mechanics' Institute), and made grants of lectures to those places.

REPRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY AT SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS, ETC.

At the meeting of the National Association for the promotion of Social Science, held last October at Edinburgh, this Society was represented by the Hon. Judge Longfield, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. Haughton, Vice-Presidents ; by Messrs. Bagot and Hutton, Members of Council, and Dr. Hancock, Hon. Secretary. At Ghent, where the Congress of the International Association for the promotion of the Social Sciences assembled in the previous month (Sep-

tember), Mr. Umlin, Member of Council, represented the Society; and in the section for Statistics and Economic Science of the British Association for the advancement of Science, whose meeting was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne in the same month, Sir Robert Kane, Vice-President, and Dr. Hancock, attended on the part of this Society.

Such is a review of what this Society has done during the past year for the promotion of social science in Ireland. In it will be discerned the marked progress of those objects for which the members have laboured in cordial association for over sixteen years. Towards those purposes this Society has drawn the attention of many among the highest in rank and conspicuous for talent whom our country possesses. Towards the development of a well regulated opinion by means of this Society, year after year increasing numbers of the educated classes have given the aid of their influence and the weight of their concurrence. Its early purposes are diligently worked out; in new paths of usefulness energy is exerted. In its prosperity and stability may be seen the best recognition of its practical utility; in its extension a constantly increasing public sense of what has always characterized the working of the Society—conscientious investigation, practical suggestion, and temperate discussion.

II.—*Obituary notice of the late Most Rev. RICHARD WHATELY, D.D., Lord Archbishop of Dublin, President of the Society.*—By W. NEILSON HANCOCK, LL.D.

[Read Wednesday, 18th November, 1863.]

Since we last assembled together for the annual election of officers, a vacancy has occurred by the death of Archbishop Whately, who for sixteen years presided over this Society. I have been requested by the Council to bring to your recollection such portions of his life as indicate the extent of his services to the advancement of Social Science, and as show the lively interest he so long took in the advancement and prosperity of this Society.

In 1830 the Rev. Richard Whately, D.D., then Principal of St. Alban's Hall, was elected to the Drummond Professorship of Political Economy in the University of Oxford. The professorship had been then only recently established, and notwithstanding the very able lectures of Mr. Nassau Senior, the first professor, there was still a great prejudice against the study of political economy. To remove that prejudice was one of the chief objects which Dr. Whately had in view in becoming a candidate for the professorship. It is difficult, in the present times of rapid progress and free discussion, to estimate the extent of moral courage which