

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

was then required in the head of a house at Oxford, who had already achieved a reputation as an author and a preacher, in thus running counter to strong and violent prejudices. It is still more difficult to form a just estimate of the full effects of that noble stand for truth and progress, and of the popularity which his example and lectures gave to the study of political economy in Oxford. The students of that day are the statesmen of the present, and Oxford, then so full of prejudice against the science, is now represented in Parliament by a Chancellor of the Exchequer, remarkable above all his predecessors for the extent to which he has applied to public affairs a profound knowledge of political economy.

Dr. Whately's tenure of the professorship at Oxford was shortened by his promotion to the archbishopric of Dublin, and he delivered only one course of lectures. They were chiefly devoted to the refutation of popular objections to the study of political economy, but they contained some original and able views on the theory of population.

In 1832 Archbishop Whately became the munificent founder of the Professorship of Political Economy which bears his name in the University of Dublin. Of the effects of that endowment, in promoting the study of political economy in Ireland, it is as unnecessary as it would be unbecoming of me to speak. His example of munificence was soon followed by an Irish economist. The bequest of Mr. John Barrington of this city, for lectures in the various towns and villages in Ireland, "on political economy in its most extended and useful sense, but particularly as relates to the conduct and duty of people to one another," bears date the 14th of July, 1834. Mr. Barrington had long felt the disastrous results arising from ignorance of political economy amongst the working classes in Ireland, and thus the two endowments to which our country has been so much indebted for a diffusion of the knowledge of social science had an almost simultaneous origin.

In Dublin, as in Oxford, Archbishop Whately sought to remove prejudice, and to lend the weight of his character and position to the study and teaching of political economy. Besides the lectures in the University, Archbishop Whately attached the greatest importance to the diffusion of the knowledge of the science amongst the poor, and his *Easy Lessons on Money Matters*, so widely circulated and taught, were well calculated to attain this result.

His interest in Social Science was not confined to political economy. His remarkable letters to Earl Gray on Secondary Punishments in 1832, and on Transportation in 1834, and his speech in the House of Lords in 1840 contributed in no small degree to the abolition of transportation, and to the philosophical consideration of the entire question of the treatment of our criminals. Here, too, he successfully combated prevailing errors, and smoothed the way for those who have since laboured with such earnestness for the improvement of our prison discipline.

To the foundation of this Society, when proposed in 1847, Archbishop Whately lent his most cordial support, and the address which he gave at the conclusion of the first session evinced his

strong interest in the Society, and his appreciation of its nature and objects. He concluded his address by confident anticipations of the success of the Society. He "trusted they would live to witness the good fruits of their exertions in the diffusion of sounder notions on one of the most important, one of the most interesting, and, at the present period, one of the most vitally essential subjects on which the human mind in this country could possibly be exercised."

When the Social Inquiry Society, now amalgamated into ours, was founded in November, 1850, Archbishop Whately again evinced his lively interest in this new application of scientific inquiries to social questions. He accepted the Presidency of the Society, subscribed munificently to its funds, and delivered the address at its first annual meeting. "The great advantage of such a Society," his Grace observed, "was that they could deliberate on each subject according to its own merits, and through the means of the investigations which they conducted, and the observations made as to the result of them, they might so far affect public opinion as to have ultimately measures ready prepared with all that discussion which parliament could not and would not afford to them, and thus the foundations laid of such improvements in their social condition, as they never could expect from any parliament existing in a free country, which would be always open to the disadvantage of party contests for power. He hoped their example would be followed in other places,"* and "would feel it a very great triumph if this country should assert its equality, at least, with any other portion of the British empire, by setting an example which would hereafter be followed by Great Britain."

When the British Association for the advancement of Science met in Belfast in 1852, Archbishop Whately presided over the section devoted to Statistics, and at the Dublin meeting of the Association in 1857 he presided over the same section, then for the first time extended to Economic Science. He was not, however, able to be present in 1861 at the meeting in Dublin of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, and we thought that increasing infirmities and advancing years would prevent his taking further part in our proceedings; but last session he came to our opening meeting to hear the address of the Solicitor General, and to receive His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant. Later in the session he contributed to our proceedings a paper containing the notes of a conversation between himself and Mr. Senior on Secondary Punishment, and took part in the discussion which followed—thus devoting his latest energies to promote that reform in punishments which he had been so instrumental in producing, and selecting our Society as the means of conveying his views to the public.

Such was his last appearance amongst us, worthy of his zeal for social science, of his courage and earnestness in maintaining his

* The Society thus founded in Ireland, under the presidency of Archbishop Whately, for the scientific investigation of social questions, preceded by six years the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, which was founded under the presidency of Lord Brougham in 1856.

opinions, and of his confidence in this Society as a valuable arena for the consideration and discussion of social questions.

Archbishop Whately will be most known to posterity as a distinguished churchman and a great author ; but the picture of his life would be incomplete without an account of his connexion with social science. The sketch I have given indicates the originality of his views on population and on transportation, his perception of the importance of social science, of its progressive nature, and of the necessity for its general diffusion. With us his memory will be cherished for his munificent endowment of economic science, the encouragement he gave to our Society, and the interest he took in its proceedings, and, above all, for the example he set of courage in opposing prejudice, and zeal and firmness in supporting valuable social reforms.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (James A. Lawson, LL.D.), said he had been requested to move that the notice of their lamented President, just read, be preserved by being printed among the transactions of the Society. He felt that the truthful and unflattering statement which his friend, Dr. Hancock, had drawn up of the late Archbishop Whately, as connected with social science, not only in this country but throughout Europe, required no observations at his hands ; and at the same time he felt, while he proposed to the meeting to register the account in their transactions, that it did not require any notice to perpetuate Archbishop Whately's memory amongst all who were well-wishers of the social advancement of the country. If he were to speak upon the theme as he wished, he believed he should indulge his private feelings more than he ought at a public meeting. He could not but remember that, at a very early period of his life, he had experienced from the late Archbishop the greatest kindness and the most affectionate recognition of the merits which his Grace thought he possessed, and but for him he (the Solicitor-General) and many other men in this country, would never have turned aside from their professional paths in order to make the study of social science one of their pursuits. This country owed a deep debt of gratitude to the lamented prelate. When he looked around the room in which they were assembled, he could not but recollect that at the last inaugural meeting of a session, when he (the Solicitor-General) had the honor of reading the annual address, the Society was honored by the presence of the Archbishop, and his absence shed a mournful feeling over the present occasion. But they should not forget that the deceased prelate and others who had departed from amongst them had left them a great legacy, and that it was their duty, each in his own sphere, to promote those objects which it was the desire and intention of those who went before them to carry out. In that spirit he hoped the Statistical Society would always act, and that, while remembering how difficult and almost impossible it was to follow the footsteps of their late President, it would be the constant endeavour of the members to promote the great cause which was so dear to the heart of him who had departed from amongst them.

DR. ROBERT MACDONNELL, in seconding the motion, said that he

had nothing to add to the words which had just fallen from the Solicitor-General. He had only to express his regret, that it was owing to the unavoidable absence of Professor Cairnes, that the duty of seconding the proposition had devolved upon him; for had that gentleman (Professor Cairnes) been present, the Association would have had before it another living proof, in addition to Dr. Hancock, the Solicitor-General, and Judge Longfield, of what substantial service the late Archbishop had done to political economy by the establishment of the Whately Professorship in the University of Dublin. In seconding the resolution, Dr. MacDonnell could not doubt that the Association would heartily concur with him in its desire to pay this tribute to the memory of the great and good man who had done so much for the Association, and for the objects in which it is interested.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

III.—*Considerations on the state of Ireland, an Address delivered at the Opening of the Seventeenth Session.* By J. K. INGRAM, LL.D., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society.

[Read Wednesday, November 18th, 1863.]

THE Statistical Society of Dublin commenced its career in that most disastrous period of the recent history of Ireland—the famine year of 1847. It was the pressure of the social problems then imperatively demanding attention, that led its youthful founder to attempt the establishment of such an institution. He thought that by bringing together earnest-minded Irishmen to discuss these problems in a calm and scientific spirit, he would contribute something towards their satisfactory solution. The gravity of the circumstances which attended the birth and early history of our Society, has given to its proceedings throughout its whole existence a peculiarly real and vital character. It has not occupied itself with dilettante statistics, collected with no special purpose, and tending to no definite conclusion. It has from the first applied itself, in the spirit of earnest inquiry, to the most important questions affecting the condition of the country; and the increasing accession of intelligent Irishmen to its ranks indicates their belief that it has not laboured in vain.

Called by the desire of your Council to address you at the opening of a new session, and thus led to consider more closely the condition of Ireland, I could not but be impressed by the grave character of the crisis. When the task was proposed to me, the country was still labouring under the severest pressure she had experienced since 1847. The gloom has now, indeed, in a great measure dispersed, and we see before us a brightening prospect. But the recollection of these recent trials, and the idea of their possible recurrence, must