

APPENDIX.

LORD O'HAGAN'S ADDRESS,

[As President of Social Science Congress, Dublin, 3rd October, 1881.]

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IN the year 1861, the Fifth Congress of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science was held in this metropolis. It was a pleasant and a prosperous meeting. There was much of genial hospitality and kindly intercourse during its continuance; and the business of the Congress was conducted by very distinguished persons. The place I have now the honor to hold was occupied by one who gave it lustre by his high ability, his singular endowments, and his life-long services in the cause of legal and political reform and human liberty. Lord Brougham was then in a ripe old age; and he was well sustained by the great French economist, Michel Chevalier, by Sir John Shaw Lefevre, who was one of the wisest and worthiest men I have ever known, and my late lamented friend Chief Justice Whiteside. They have passed away. Their eminent associates—Judge Longfield, Baron Holtzendorff, Sir Joseph Napier, and others,—still happily survive. I had the good fortune to act along with them; and I scarcely remember a week spent with a more grateful combination of intellectual profit and social enjoyment. I am reminded of it by some of the old familiar faces which then became known to me, and are now before me; and I recur to the recollection, that I may express my confident hope of a repetition of the success which was at that time achieved, and offer to the Congress, on behalf of my countrymen, the same warm and cordial welcome which greeted its coming, “twenty golden years ago.”

Usage casts upon me the honorable but onerous duty of addressing some observations to this great assembly. I call it onerous, remembering the long line of remarkable men—which includes, with Lord Brougham, Lord Russell, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Dufferin, the present Bishop of Manchester, and many more—who have been your Presidents; and have

exhausted all the forms of speech which could be enriched by their high culture and wide experience. I feel that anything I can say, in poor succession to them, must "come tardy off." But at least I shall endeavour, avoiding the ambition of originality and foregoing the opportunity for eloquence, to speak of matters which I may be supposed to understand, as I have had practically much to do with very many of them; and which may have something of novelty and interest, as they pertain to Ireland, and regard exclusively questions, within the domain of social science, which bear on her condition and affect her future.

It seems to me, that your President should scarcely intrude on the sphere of those who will direct the proceedings of special sections, by taking a particular subject and exhausting upon it ingenuity or erudition. Neither do I think that I can profitably range through the endless diversities of human affairs, with which your inquiries are conversant: and attempt to indicate all the aids which your Association has given to the progress of those inquiries, and all the successes which have encouraged its efforts for the amendment of the Law and useful economic change. Those aids have been effective and those successes have been great. For a quarter of a century, laboring, not at your Congresses only, but at frequent meetings, in every month, in London, your active members have watched the progress of legislation: ascertaining and arranging facts on questions of current interest: formulating Parliamentary enactments: urging the appointment of Parliamentary committees: and circulating reports for the guidance of opinion, in Parliament and out of it, which have had a very appreciable and a very salutary influence. At my desire, your efficient secretary has furnished me with a record of the work of the Association, since it was established in 1856; and the continuous energy and unslumbering activity which that record demonstrates, during the long interval, in promoting measures of public utility—many of which have obtained the sanction of the Legislature—have been most meritorious and most honorable to the institution.

It has been of especial value in keeping up a continuous protest against abuses in law and procedure, which, though of serious mischief, did not rouse popular feeling or attract popular resistance; and in making continuous claim to necessary

improvements, which were not easily capable of general appreciation, or attractive of earnest support from ordinary politicians. The Patent Law, the Law of Copyright, the System of Public Prosecution, the Digest and Codification of the Statutes, the Law of Evidence, Prison Discipline, the Government and Administration of Public Schools, the Improvement of the Public Health, the Promotion of Temperance by wise arrangements as to the Licensing System and the regulation of the Liquor Traffic, Trades' Unions and Strikes, the Protection of Life and Property at Sea—these and a host of kindred matters have received laborious attention from your Society, since the moment of its birth; and it has done good service in them all, without idle ostentation or pretentious publicity.

As was long the fortune of its predecessor, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, it has been made, more or less, the object of abuse and ridicule, by persons having no sympathy with its purposes or capacity to judge its work. And, no doubt, every such Association, which permits public discussion of controverted questions, must sometimes tolerate empty talkers and conceited sciolists, whose weakness or folly may give occasion for sneering to those who delight, with reason or without, "to sit in the chair of the scorner." But with all their drawbacks, such discussions tend to awaken thought and educate opinion. It is well that people should meet together, and look each other in the face, and test the value of their respective views by comparing and contrasting them, even at the cost of listening sometimes to words which neither amuse nor edify.

The result is worth the trouble of attainment, if prejudice is so dispelled and toleration of honest difference promoted; and if, whilst men appraise at their true value exact science and investigation of the wonders and the beauties by which the material universe attests the power and goodness of the Creator, they are led to value, also, inquiries which affect the order, the comfort, and the happiness of human life, and are pursued, with fruitful interest, by those who believe, that—

"The proper study of mankind is man."

Estimating thus the aims and the methods of your Association, I have resolved, instead of surveying the wide field of its multifarious labours, to undertake an humbler task, and to

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speak to you only of the legal and social reforms which have been accomplished in Ireland since you were last assembled here. I deem it fitting, that your Congresses should be utilized by something of local inquiry and local information about the communities to which they are successively invited. In very many of those communities and, certainly, in Dublin, they have been the authors of valuable local improvements. Ireland, and her peculiar condition, are not too well understood in other countries; and some of you may be pleased to learn what she has striven to do, and what she has achieved, in your own sphere of action, from the date of our former meeting. I shall not trouble you with elaborate statistics or lengthened disquisition, but content myself, as I have said, with a simple indication of a series of beneficial changes which, to the people of this island, have been reasonably subjects of congratulation.

I shall point to those changes as they connect themselves with the several departments of the business of the Congress.

And, first, as to those amendments of the Law which were the exclusive object of the Society from which your larger Association had its origin. Soon after 1861, a strong Commission, having upon it the most eminent persons at the Bar and on the Bench in Ireland and England—"The English and Irish Law and Chancery Commission"—after many sittings in Dublin and in London, produced an excellent report as to the constitution of our legal tribunals. It led to practical results of an important kind: and ultimately the many and marked differences which, in 1861, separated the English system from the Irish were substantially done away: and that assimilation of practice and procedure which, for manifest reasons, is so desirable between systems of Judicature, identical in their sources and their principles, was happily accomplished. I do not say that further serious alterations may not be necessary in the judicial machinery which has been so assimilated, and may be still further assimilated with advantage; but practical improvements have been undoubtedly achieved, which give to our central administration of justice a harmony and an efficiency unknown to it before.

I cannot pause to indicate many of the details of those improvements. But I may briefly say that, in the constitution of the Appellate Court of Ireland, and the substitution of continuous

action by two Courts sitting permanently, save in vacation and when the Judges are on circuit, for the old trials at Nisi Prius after Term, the greatest benefit has been conferred upon the public. When the Barons at Runnymede gave their noble promise, "*Nulli vendemus, nulli negabimus, nulli differemus rectum vel justitiam*,"—of the three great undertakings—not to sell, nor to deny, nor to delay justice—the last was not the least momentous. For generations, the judiciary of these countries have been happily free from the suspicion of corruption. No man imputes to them a design to make commodity of their office, by refusing his rights to any suitor or trafficking on their exalted trust. But "the law's delay" has never ceased to be the subject of complaint, since Shakspeare numbered it amongst the intolerable tortures of humanity; and any change which diminishes its mischief must be hailed as a blessing by a civilized community.

The Appellate Court is open to complaining litigants in every inferior tribunal, from that of the County Judge to that of the Lord Chief Justice; and its despatch of business is free from the obstructions and embarrassments which were too effective for evil in the days of the Court of Error. The Consolidated Nisi Prius Court gives quick and full relief; and its value is demonstrated by the fact, that the mere facility of approach to it has increased its business remarkably—so that 215 cases tried by its Judges in 1878 became 266 in 1879, and 300 in 1880.

So much for the High Court of Justice, of which I can speak no more. But equal or greater advance has been made in the jurisdiction and arrangements of our County Courts. They were an old institution in Ireland, and furnished the precedent for the County Courts of England. The proceeding by Civil Bill for the recovery of small debts existed with us, from an early period. It was, at first, administered by the Judges on their circuits, and was the subject of statutable provisions from the time of George the First. So far back as 1796, the office of Assistant Barrister was created, and his Court, with continually extending civil jurisdiction, became one of great importance to the people. It was oddly constituted, being a court of law for the plaintiff and a court of equity for the defendant. For a long time, this had been found inconsistent with the effective administration of the law. In very many cases,

poor men, or men of moderate means, were unable to assert plain equitable rights from incapacity to sue in the Court of Chancery. Through the earnest intervention of my distinguished predecessor (Dr. Ball) the evil was rectified. The County Judge has now a jurisdiction in equity, and, to a great extent, it is utilized by the suitors of his tribunal. The local Judges in England possessed it for twelve years before it was given to their Irish brethren. But it is already employed more largely here. In 1880 the Irish cases were 616 as compared with 125 in the same extent of English population, and the matters in dispute amounted in value to £59,996 in Ireland, whilst, in an equal extent of English population, they were only £17,560 in amount.

The benefit to the poorer country has been very great indeed.

In many other ways, the County Courts—a highly popular branch of our judicial establishment—have had their jurisdiction extended, and been made more effective, and, equally in their action and in that of the High Court, we need not be ashamed of Irish progress.

But I must pass to another topic. In the year 1861, the Lunacy Laws of Ireland were almost in the condition in which they had remained after the abolition of the Court of Wards; save as to the establishment of District Asylums for the poor, the inspection of Lunatic Asylums generally, and the rules for the regulation of admission and release.

The actual treatment of this unhappy class of our fellow-beings had been greatly changed for the better from the time, within living memory, when they were dealt with not as patients to be cured or even as prisoners to be guarded, but as caged beasts, to be tormented at the will of sordid physicians or brutal keepers. Towards the close of the last century, Pinel, in France, and Tuke, in England, exposed the horrors of Bicêtre, York and Bethlem; and awakened the public conscience to a sense of the cruelty and crime which pervaded lunatic establishments, public and private, without restraint or punishment. But the evil did not promptly find a sufficient remedy.

It was only in 1815 that a Committee of the House of Commons, making an authoritative pronouncement against still existing iniquities, compelled protective legislation in several measures which were, more or less, of service. At last, in 1853, the

Lunacy Regulation Act was passed, which, for England, accomplished great and beneficial changes. But when your Congress met in Dublin seven years afterwards, that Act had not been extended to Ireland, and the protection given to our lunatics continued, as I have said, very inadequate indeed. In cases under the control of the Court of Chancery, there was no sufficient provision for the care even of those possessed of ample means, by proper visitation and report; and none for the discovery of persons kept privately in duress, and subjected to ill-treatment. No lunatic could be brought under the protection of the Court, without the great cost and painful exposure of a Commission. And whilst such a state of things was evil in relation to the rich, sufferers of small fortune could not receive even that protection.

All this has been happily altered since 1861. Ten years afterwards, the Irish Lunacy Regulation Act embodied all the useful provisions of the English statute, and added many which have been found most salutary. There is now no necessity for a commission in the vast majority of cases, which are plain and simple; or unless the alleged lunatic be of mental capacity to demand an inquiry, or lives beyond the jurisdiction. The most careful investigation is instituted, and the fullest notice given, in every case; and, for the past five years, only one Commission has been demanded, and only one actually sped from the absence of the lunatic.

The Act, thus cheap in its administration, and sparing, as far as possible, annoyance or pain to relatives,—whilst it is rigidly guarded against abuse, and has never, in a single case, been assailed for any improper or incautious application of its powers,—has been of large and increasing utility. In 1871, the number of returns furnished to the Lunacy Office from the Committees of Estates was 97, and, in 1880, it had risen to 194; whilst, in 1871, the reports from medical visitors had been 103, and, in 1880, they had increased to 364.

This Statute, although successful in its operation, could not reach a large class of persons in poor circumstances, and, for their protection, a further Act was passed in 1880, enabling the friends of an alleged lunatic to obtain from the County Court Judge, at very little expense, a declaration of lunacy

with a scheme for the management of his person and his little property; and also to secure for him the advantages of medical visitation and stated reports on his condition and treatment. A similar Act was passed for Scotland in the same Session (the Judicial Factors' Act), and in this needful reform Ireland and Scotland are both in advance of England.

This will complete the necessary protection of persons to whom the public asylums are not available, from their possession of pecuniary means; but I lament to say, that beyond the Court of Chancery, and the County Court, and the County Asylum, there are multitudes of unhappy creatures—people of weak and disordered minds—who go at large through the country without any legal care. They are numbered by hundreds and thousands. Years ago, it was calculated that there were 8,151 imbeciles and idiots in Ireland—of whom 1,740 were in workhouses, 638 in asylums, and 5,733 utterly neglected. The lapse of time has not lessened the number: and, although various efforts have been made in the Legislature to do something for these wretched sufferers, they still remain wandering about in their unregarded misery. This sad condition of things does not properly come within the scope of an address, which aims to state achievements and not failures in the way of well-doing; but I have felt it impossible to part from the subject of lunacy law without expressing my strong and earnest feeling, as I have often expressed it in a higher place, against the scandalous indifference with which so many of God's afflicted children have been treated by the Legislature and the country. I trust that the day is near when such a reproach will be taken away from us; and there has been good preparation for the removal of it, in a lucid and careful report made by a very able Commission, which was appointed by the late Government, and dealt with the subject largely.

x      Whilst considering the legal changes which have affected Ireland since 1861, I cannot fail to refer to one of the most important of them all—the Reform of the Jury System. I observe that the subject is to be mooted in one of your sections, and I do not desire to forestal, in any way, the discussion there. But I shall note shortly, as of some interest, the circumstances under which that reform was introduced, and the

objects of it. A Parliamentary committee, in 1852, had strongly recommended a change in the existing law, in two particulars. It advised, first, that there should be a rating qualification for jurors, and next, that means should be adopted "to secure strict impartiality in the construction of the jury panel." Before 1871, nothing had been done upon this recommendation. The old leasehold qualification had almost ceased to exist, and there was no substitute. The evidence was strong that the jury system had broken down, as well from want of qualified jurors as from the conduct of officials. The necessity of change was manifest and imperative; and that necessity and the difficulty of it were equally demonstrated by nine successive Bills which were prepared, year after year, for the House of Commons, by nine successive law officers, for the purpose of making it. They were all, from various causes, utterly abortive. In 1871, the necessity continued, with aggravation; and I introduced, in the House of Lords, the Bill which was accepted by the Legislature. Proceeding on the two recommendations of the Committee of 1852, it prescribed a rating qualification and aimed to secure "strict impartiality" by rendering the Sheriff's packing of a jury impossible. It was sent down to the Commons after the fullest opportunity for deliberation, and after it had been circulated throughout Ireland for a considerable time. No single objection was made in Parliament or by the Press to any of its provisions, and it was amended in the Lower House, only by the reduction of the amount of qualification it had fixed. It passed, apparently, with universal assent.

Afterwards, a great outcry was raised against it. By some, it was assailed because it took away from the Sheriff the power of selection. That power had been a very formidable one. He could array the panel just as, for any purpose, good or bad, he desired to settle it. There was no check upon him. He could eliminate altogether the jurors not friendly to a cause he favoured: or he could rank them so low in the list as to make it impossible that they should be called, and to render their attendance an idle mockery. The arrangement of the jury, if he was disposed to arrange it, proclaimed a foregone conclusion, and the game of justice, as was said by a great advocate, in a famous case, could be played "with loaded dice"—the stakes, I add, being the lives and

liberties of men. And the person clothed with power to do these things was not the High Sheriff, who rarely interfered with his deputy, but a man who, trustworthy though he might be in the majority of cases, might also be, in many, without character as he was without responsibility. The Act of 1871 was designed strictly to carry out the recommendation of 1852. It took away the possibility of any malversation of the Sheriff by depriving him of his power of arbitrary choice; and, for the first time since the introduction of English law to Ireland, gave the people an absolute assurance that, for no purpose and in no circumstances, should a Sheriff thereafter select a jury to perpetrate injustice.

It threw open the jury box to multitudes who had suffered perpetual exclusion; and offered them the chance of that moral and political training which has been of such profit to the English race, from their continual opportunities of taking a public and responsible part in the administration of justice. And, of course, it brought a crowd of comparatively humble people into a position they had never occupied before. The higher class of jurors shrunk from association with those of lower station; and there were inevitably exhibitions of ignorance and awkwardness in the performance of duties with which the new men were unfamiliar, but which a little experience would have enabled them to discharge efficiently.

Circumstances have been greatly unfavorable to the working of the new panels. The waves of popular passion which have gone over Ireland would have strained any system, whatever might have been its form or substance; and many of the failures of justice, which have unfortunately occurred, have been caused by the abnormal and unexampled influences with which we have had to contend. This has been brought out very clearly by the evidence before the Juries' Committee, which has declared that, in its opinion, the two principles of the Act, the qualification by rating and the condemnation of selection, under any circumstances, are just and wise and ought to be maintained.

Proof was given before that Committee that the new jurors were gradually acquiring a knowledge of their business, and an aptitude for the doing of it, when the excitement of the time, in certain districts, interrupted the course of their improvement, and induced decisions and failures of decision which admit of no

defence. But it would be very unreasonable to form an adverse judgment as to the permanent action of a just principle, because, from a passing disturbance of the general mind, its application may have produced a temporary mischief.

It is not within my province to discuss the suggestions which have been made, for legislative consideration, to meet existing evils. The rating qualification is elastic, and its application may be modified according to circumstances. But the one lasting good, designed and accomplished by the Act of 1871, was the abolition of Jury Packing, and that good, I rejoice to believe, the solemn finding of the Lords' Committee will secure for ever.

The report has just been printed, and, on a subject of such extreme importance, I shall not trespass much upon your time by reading to you the few sentences in which it pronounces the unanimous judgment of the Peers. They express it thus:—

“We have received evidence from a considerable number of witnesses connected with different parts of Ireland, and holding professional or official positions which afford them opportunities of forming an opinion on the general expediency of the new departure involved by the Act of 1871. To the principles upon which that Act was based the judgment of these witnesses is, as a rule, decidedly favourable.

“The evidence which we have taken leaves no doubt (*i.*) that the qualification required by the Act of 1833 (3 & 4 Will. IV., c. 91), which remained in force till 1871, had become virtually obsolete, and that, owing to the scarcity of qualified jurors, the sheriffs, in order to obtain a jury panel, were in some instances actually driven to enpanel persons not legally qualified; and (*ii.*) that the right of selection by the sheriff, though probably not often abused, had created a general impression that it was possible to pack the juries, and consequently had led to a widespread suspicion with regard to their impartiality.

“Even those witnesses who are least favourable to the new system are not prepared to recommend a return to the old, in so far as it permitted the selection of the jurors by the sheriffs. We share this opinion, and believe that, in order to maintain public confidence, it is absolutely necessary that the selection of jurors should depend upon a fixed system of rotation, and not upon the discretion of any public official.

“We believe, further, that whatever modifications may be possible in the law dealing with the qualification for service on the jury, that qualification must, as a general rule, be founded, as at present, upon the rating of the person qualified.”

And in another portion of the Report the Committee make this statement as to the causes of the existing state of things, indicating that neither the principles of the measure, nor the application of those principles, should be held responsible for it:—

“The evidence which we have received forces upon us the conclusion that in a large part of Ireland no improvement in the composition of the jury, consistent with the principles upon which we conceive trial by jury to be founded, is likely to remove or materially to palliate the unfortunate condition of things which now obtains.”

I pass from the history of legal reforms in Ireland, which I might much extend, if time allowed me, to that of the progress of her educational institutions. Their improvement has been enormous, within the period to which I am confining your attention.

And, first, as to Primary Education. The National Board has existed for nearly half a century. It was the greatest act of the late Lord Derby's life, to have founded it with the purpose of uniting separate religious and combined secular instruction. By the mass of the Irish People, it was received with gratitude and satisfaction, as a happy contrast to the sectarian and exclusive systems which preceded it. It was—as matters educational singularly seem to be throughout the world,—the subject of very bitter controversy. Many missed with regret, in its theory of comprehension, the ideal which would have given them secular teaching, not separated from, but interpenetrated with, religious knowledge. And the hostility of various Churches was sometimes excited by compromises inconsistent with the admission of their conflicting claims. The strife was long and earnest. But between opposing forces, sometimes neutralizing each other and sometimes sustaining, by their adverse action, the common object of attack, the Board continued to do its work, and gradually to earn attachment from its adversaries. In 1861, the war still raged unpleasantly: although the wisdom taught by experience to the Commissioners, and the recognition of their fair purposes and impartial administration were gaining them adherents on every side. Since that time, the development of the system has been continuous as it has been vast—Just demands have been conceded—Hostile pretensions have been reconciled—Difficulties have been surmounted, in many ways. And although some improvements remain to be accomplished, the institution has spread

its beneficent influence, everywhere, from the centre of the island to the sea, has multiplied its schools by thousands and its pupils by tens of thousands, and widely commands the confidence of the People.

I do not, in this place, dream of discussing the disputes of the past, or the prospects of the future, but notwithstanding my unwillingness to trouble you with dry statistics, I cannot refrain from giving a few figures which tell a marvellous tale of twenty years' endeavour and success.

In 1860, the schools of the Board were 5,632; in 1880, they were 7,590; in 1860, the pupils on its rolls were 804,000; in 1880, they were 1,083,020; in 1860, the children in average attendance were 262,823; in 1880, they were 468,557; and the Parliamentary grant which in 1860, was £234,468, was, in 1880, £722,366.

These figures exhibit the information obtained in 1861 as to 1860; and the information obtained in 1881 as to 1880. They need no comment; and are, in themselves, happily demonstrative of a great increase in the means of primary public instruction and the number of those availing themselves of it; notwithstanding that, in the meantime, there has been no corresponding advance in the amount of the population of Ireland. The apparatus of teaching has been ample and effective. The State has been very generous; and the classes for whose benefit it has lavished its subventions, have proved their appreciation of the benefit bestowed, by availing themselves of it, in ever increasing numbers.

As I have intimated, notwithstanding the efficiency of the system, according to its principle, and the great prosperity it has achieved, it is capable of still further expansion, and still enlarged utility. There are questions—as to the training of teachers, the improvement of school attendance, and others—which press for immediate solution; but they may best be relegated to your special section of Education, which has the great advantage of the presidency of the eminent and accomplished Resident Commissioner, Sir Patrick Keenan.

Whilst Primary Instruction was thus spread broadcast through the toiling millions, the education of the Middle Classes had fallen into a poor condition as was clearly pointed out in the

elaborate report of the Endowed Schools Commission of 1858. Those who could use the aid of the National schools employed it to admirable purpose and with conspicuous success. They did so by seeking the lower posts in the public service. But of higher places they had no chance, as there was scant provision for their further progress. At the taking of the Census in 1871, it appeared that there was of the Catholic population of Ireland 1 in 923 learning Latin, and of the Protestant population, 1 in 259; whilst, of the Catholics, 1 in 1,209 was learning Greek, and of the Protestants, 1 in 398. The opportunities for Intermediate Education—between the Primary School and the University—were quite insufficient, and they were made so, very much, by the action of the National Board, which extinguished multitudes of schools affording to the general community the means of some classical and scientific instruction. Such schools were once common in Ireland; but when State education, good and cheap, or it might be, gratuitous, came into competition with them, they sunk and perished. The result was, as the Census Commissioners declared, that the intellect of the country was “starved and dwarfed;” and we were threatened with a condition of things, full of inconvenience and fraught with danger, in which the poorer classes of the community might outrun the wealthier, and hold a lower social place whilst they could boast superiority in mental acquirement.

× Happily, all this has been changed. In 1878, my noble and learned friend, Lord Cairns, in an admirable address to the House of Lords, introduced the Intermediate Education Bill for Ireland, which was carried through Parliament without opposition, and received in this country with enthusiastic thankfulness. I have never known a measure of any kind which attracted such unanimous approval from all classes and denominations of the Irish People.

And, in my judgment, it has been found most worthy of that approval. It has stirred the country with a new intellectual life; and, equally for the educators and the educated, it has supplied a wholesome incitement to intellectual effort. The standard of teaching has been raised. The emulation of the masters has given new activity and efficiency to the schools. Obsolete methods and obsolete works have been abandoned; and the

struggle for pre-eminence has developed scholastic capacities and administrative powers, which no one imagined to exist amongst the teachers of Ireland.

How the novel system has roused the spirit of Irish boys and girls, and how their parents appreciate its advantages, is best proved by the number of those who have given notice of their purpose to be examined in 1879, 1880, and 1881 respectively. In 1879, such notice was given by 3,671 boys and 797 girls, in all 4,268 persons. In 1880, 4,493 boys and 1,477 girls, making in all 6,126, gave notice; whilst in the present year it has been given by 5,714 boys and 2,033 girls, in all 7,747!

Are not these numbers of singular interest and significance? Do they not show that the eagerness for knowledge and the facility of acquiring it which, under the most adverse circumstances, have characterized the Irish People, through all chances and changes, still belong to them? So far, the result has not disappointed the expectation which was justified by their antecedents, and there is no reason to believe that they will not be able to utilize, in a higher sphere, the endowments which the Intermediate Education Act invites them to attain, as they have employed effectively those for which, in a lower, they have been indebted to the National Board.

The system is yet in its infancy; and the wonder seems to be, that it has grown to its great proportions with so much rapidity and so few miscarriages. The reports of its examiners present strong evidence of careful instruction and sound acquirement; and it is quite within the competence of the Commissioners, as it is their earnest wish, to make the mental work which they encourage and reward of solid and substantial value.

Thus, the Primary and the Intermediate Education of Ireland were happily cared for. There remained a difficulty as to a National University. Our existing collegiate institutions were, in many respects, admirable. Trinity College and the Queen's Colleges possess Fellows and Professors of thorough competency for their duties, of consummate ability and great accomplishments, who would do honor to any seat of learning in the world. But, for reasons—the nature and validity of which it is not needful, in this place, to consider—the advantages offered by them to their students were not available to very many who

desired the training of a University; and for a lengthened period, at least for the lifetime of a generation, effort after effort has been made to procure the means of satisfying the aspirations of persons so denied it, on conditions they might feel themselves conscientiously free to accept. Those efforts, unhappily, were without result, and a great public want remained to be supplied. At last, in the establishment of the Royal University, that want has been practically acknowledged and dealt with by the Legislature. It is not yet in action, and of course it is too soon to forecast its future. The Statute which gave it being has left its constitution to be shaped and fashioned by its Senate, under the supervision of the Crown. But, for myself, I am full of hope that it will fulfil its high purpose, and bless Ireland with a completed system of satisfactory instruction. Its endowment is not large, but sufficient for a beginning; and, if it does its work faithfully and well, further provision will not be withheld, to aid in its expansion and increase its efficiency. It recognizes the rights of conscience, and is free from offence to the keenest religious susceptibility. Its Senate is representative in the truest sense; and the perfect harmony which has marked the deliberations of so many men of the most varied views—equally as to things sacred and secular—has been auspicious of good to its own prospects, and also to the country whose youth it is destined to guide not only to the sources of knowledge, but also, I devoutly hope, in the cultivation of mutual confidence and kindness.

It is formed very much on the plan of the London University; and there is no reason why it should not emulate the efficiency and the usefulness of that successful institution. I fully understand the grounds of the preference which many of us may entertain for collegiate and residential training. But all that is desirable cannot be at once achieved. Perhaps, the special purpose of Parliament in seeking to combine students of various creeds and classes, on terms safe equal and impartial for them all, could not, at least in the first instance, have been carried out so well, in any other way; and, at all events, it behoves us to make the most of the opportunity which is given to us in the present, without abandoning the hope of better things hereafter.

Thus, since the former meeting of the Congress, the great and saving work of National education, which then had been only begun, has been so far advanced that the way of progress, from the primary elements of knowledge to its largest and last developments, has been opened to all the people. The humblest in rank may reach the highest place in intellectual, and so, in social station: and the country will find its best enrichment in utilizing the mental power which has heretofore been unproductive. The boy who is distinguished in the country school will be encouraged to compete at the Intermediate Examinations. Obtaining his exhibition there, he may pass with honor to the University: and, if the capacity be in him, he will have the means of taking his place with the foremost of his age. For the first time, such chances are given to all the youth of Ireland—For the first time, we have assurance that their ability will have a fair and full career.

I shall not trouble you by any reference to questions which have been mooted as to the probable working of the Intermediate Board and the Royal University. The time is not ripe for the discussion of them; and it will be wise and becoming to await a little longer the teaching of experience.

But this audience, especially the fairer portion of it, will not blame me if I allude to and defend one especial characteristic of the higher education which those institutions offer to Ireland. Both of them afford the same opportunities of progress—the same incitements to mental culture, and the same rewards for intellectual merit—to women as to men. The prizes, the exhibitions, the degrees, which stimulate the Irish boy's ambition, are placed within the reach of the Irish girl; and she has already given abundant proof, as I have shown, of readiness to avail herself of the novel advantage.

I regard this great concession with unmixed pleasure and sanguine anticipation of its social usefulness. But I know that others take a different view; and carp at the change as a dangerous experiment. At all times, there have been many who have desired to keep woman in the position of a doll to be dandled, or a drudge to be worked, or a machine to be used for the profit or the pleasure of a master. We have been familiar with sneers at "blue stockings," and "books in petticoats," and with ungracious

caricatures of learned ladies, as necessarily exhibiting offensive conceit or dogmatic coarseness. But "the lions have been the painters;" and the pictures have been fashioned to please men, perhaps unwilling to be matched with their sisters or their wives in pursuits, in which they have painfully suspected that they might not always hold a clear supremacy.

Need I argue in excuse of an educational equality as just and beneficial as it has been made inevitable by the course of human progress?

One of the highest achievements of Christianity, in the amelioration of the world, was accomplished by the elevation of woman from her debased condition. In its divine dispensation, she took her proper place, as a responsible and immortal being; and if the capacities bestowed upon her are to have full development, are we not bound to help it in the largest and most liberal way? I do not pause upon the idle controversy as to the comparative power of the male and the female intellect. They are very diverse in their qualities; each gifted with those which suit the sphere for its appointed exercise; each excellent in its own degree and kind; and neither to be ranked in disparaging contrast to the other. But of woman's understanding can the contemporaries of Maria Edgeworth and Elizabeth Browning and George Eliot and Mary Somerville be capable of doubting; or of its worthiness to be aided by the best appliances for its ripening growth and healthful activity, which are employed to inform and strengthen the intellect of man? She has to discharge the highest duties of humanity in her relations with her home! and will she discharge them less efficiently if a mind, well furnished and wisely disciplined, lifting her above the debilitating atmosphere of frivolity and folly, makes her a true help-mate to her husband, and fits her to form the character of her children,—putting far from them the temptations of indolence and vice, and equipping them, with high principle, pure morals, and sound culture, to bear themselves nobly in the world?

Her possession of abundant knowledge need not derogate, in the smallest measure, from the grace and tenderness which are the dearest characteristics of her sex; nor will her enlarged intelligence disqualify her for the wise and orderly government of a family. Some of us have seen with delight, and remember with

enduring gratitude, the combination of sense and information, of clear judgment and firm will, with perfect gentleness and loving care for all about them, in wives and mothers worthy to be ranked with the "valiant woman" of Holy Writ, the heart of whose husband trusted in her, and whose children arose and called her blessed; who opened her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue was the law of kindness. Her kindness was not less kind because it was associated with her wisdom; and her husband did not cherish her with less attachment because that wisdom made her worthy of his trust.

Some seem to think that knowledge must unsex the woman and lead her to intrude on the proper business of the man. But surely it is not so. Their provinces are separate. Nature has marked the line between them, and it should never be overpassed—*Non omnia possumus omnes!* There are avocations which physical and mental constitution and the necessity of things assign to each respectively, and the woman's influence is never so great and true as when she confines herself to those which properly belong to her. The offer to her of instruction in the whole range of science and letters, on a complete equality with man, does not involve or imply approval of the application of that instruction to any purposes which the conditions and ends of her existence should not permit her to pursue. Fulfilling those conditions and aiming at those ends, she may have full occupation for all her powers without impairing the high instinct, the delicate susceptibilities, and the sacred affections which make her own happiness, and purify and bless her household. She may realize in her daily life the picture of Wordsworth, with which you are familiar—and all the more, the higher is her culture:—

"The reason firm, the temperate will,  
Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill!  
A perfect woman nobly planned  
To warn, to comfort, and command.  
And yet a spirit, still and bright,  
With something of an angel light."

In connexion with the subject of Education, I ought to observe, that whilst Reformatories had been brought into operation in Ireland in 1858, we had no industrial schools in 1861, or for many years afterwards, although they had before been estab-

lished in England and Scotland. In 1868, the Industrial Schools Act was introduced for Ireland by the O'Connor Don, and carried through Parliament, with considerable modifications. It has since been worked, under the able and humane superintendence of Sir John Lentaigne, with excellent effect. There were fifty-six schools in operation on the 31st December, 1880, and on that day there were in those schools,—Boys, 2,404; girls, 3,295; in all 5,699. There was an increase of 365 boys and 222 girls on the previous year.

Thousands of children have been thus saved from corruption and crime, and trained to become useful citizens. It was a strange anomaly, in 1861, that whilst the criminal child was cared for, fed, lodged and instructed, the homeless vagrant, who had done no wrong, was allowed to perish in ignorance and destitution. I cannot occupy time in describing the details of the administration which has made the Irish Statute a real boon and blessing to the country. But I trust that those of my auditors who have not seen the school at Artane will pay it a visit. There is not in the empire an institution of the sort more admirably managed; and it will sufficiently indicate the methods which have been pursued in Ireland, and the advantages which have been secured for so many unfriended children.

The Irish Industrial Schools Act, although aiming at the same objects, and generally containing the same provisions, as that which was long before framed for England, is not, unfortunately, identical with it in some respects. Thus, whilst in England the Guardians of the poor can transfer children to industrial schools, and provide for their maintenance, no such power has been given to Irish Guardians. The result is disastrous here. The pauper child must continue in the demoralizing atmosphere of the workhouse, until he becomes unfit for any of the proper uses of human life. He is in the hands of adult paupers, whose character and example offer no fit model for imitation. He does not receive the discipline or the teaching which might give him the hope of a prosperous manhood: and he is liable to that induration of the heart which has been observed to belong to young persons brought up as paupers "whom nobody owns," in gloomy isolation and untouched by the kindly affections of family life. Certainly, there is no

ground for this distinction between the Statutes in Great Britain and Ireland. Nor is there any for another, which casts on the managers of our industrial schools the burthen of purchasing land and erecting buildings without the relief which is afforded in Scotland and England by the authority intrusted to public bodies, for the erection and maintenance of such schools at the general expense. It seems strange, that the poorer country should bear the heavier burthen.

Nearly £200,000 have been expended by Irish managers out of their own resources, or from the charitable contributions of the public, in procuring sites and completing houses, and the pressure upon them must have been very great.

I do not see any reason for maintaining a different rule in this regard in the two countries, and I trust that the distinction may be speedily done away.

I do not advert to the Irish Convict System, which has had such excellent results, or to our Irish Reformatory schools, as both had existence before 1861; and do not, therefore, come within the plan of my address. I spoke of them largely at our last Congress; and I shall only call attention to a new experiment in connexion with them, which is now in progress.

In the year 1880, 84 boys and 12 girls, under twelve years of age, were committed to Reformatory schools in Ireland, after having been imprisoned in gaols for fourteen days and upwards. The effect of such imprisonment, on children so young, has been found to be contaminating and injurious; and, for the purpose of preventing this ill result, a probationary industrial school has been certified by the Chief Secretary, at Kilmore, in the county Dublin, for juvenile offenders under twelve years of age, who will be transferred, on reaching that age, to industrial schools, or may, after eighteen months, be placed in the homes of their relatives, if willing and qualified to receive them with advantage.

I have never been able to appreciate or approve the reasons for the rule which interposes the prison, with all its evil influences, between the Court of Justice and the Reformatory School. I am very glad that the experiment I have described has been undertaken; and I trust that it may issue in a larger change of reformatory discipline. I mention it here, though somewhat out of place, because I believe it will be of interest to

many who have laboured for the redemption of criminal children ; and that it is of importance as testing the value of the questionable practice to which I have referred.

Another great improvement, accomplished since 1861, was in some sense attributable to the Congress of that year. All that I have said and much more, as to the mischief of residence in workhouses, was urged at its meetings, in favour of boarding-out orphan and deserted children, who were then pining in those establishments, maintained and educated there, and without provision for any other dwelling. For a quarter of a century, after the enactment of the Irish Poor Law, they had so remained ; undergoing, in many places, a miserable process of moral and physical deterioration—often exposed to the pollution of vice—and always liable, as I have said, to be made hard and selfish from the want of any natural culture of the affections. They dragged through their young lives without hope or comfort, and left their prison houses, in too many cases, only to become absorbed amongst the most incorrigible of the criminal classes.

Earnest appeals were made at your Congress against this state of things. Excursions were planned to visit the homes of children boarded out in the county of Dublin, and their better and happier state attracted great attention. In the result, the Boarding-out Act of 1862 was passed, not without difficulty ; and although the limitation to the age of thirteen, and the restrictions enforced on our Guardians of the Poor, which are more stringent than those of the English Poor Law, lessen its advantages, it has conferred enormous benefits on many thousand little ones, who enjoy health and happiness in the open country, are trained to honest toil, and ultimately take their proper places as useful members of a community, to which, if they had not been rescued from the workhouse, they would have proved a burthen and a curse.

I pass on to tell you what has been done, since 1861, in a department, not less important than any other within the range of your inquiries—the department of Public Health. In that year, Ireland had, as its chief sanitary authorities, expiring Parish Vestries, clothed with antiquated powers, which had been vested in them so far back as the year 1818. There were some other bodies acting for similar purposes, under statutes which had once

had equal application to England and Ireland, but had continued in action here after they were repealed in England. Five years after the meeting of the Congress, in 1866, the Vestries were finally abolished, and the Guardians of the Poor were entrusted with sanitary powers identical with those existing in England and Wales. The change was great and wholesome: and was pushed to better issues when the Local Government Board was created in 1872. It was armed with large authority, and acted with energy and success.

An Act of 1874 developed the sanitary system and brought it into full operation throughout the country.

Under that Act, the whole of Ireland was divided into Sanitary Districts called Urban Sanitary Districts and Rural Sanitary Districts. The Urban Districts consist of towns having a population exceeding 6,000. The governing body of the town is made the sanitary authority. The rural districts, consist of the Poor Law Unions, and the Boards of Guardians are the sanitary authorities. There are now 56 Urban Sanitary Districts, and 163 Rural Sanitary Districts; and, in each of those districts, a complete sanitary staff has been organized under the orders of the Local Government Board. The Medical Officer of the Dispensary District is, in all cases, the sanitary officer or medical officer of health. The principal duty of the sanitary authorities and their officers consists in the inspection of their districts, and in taking all necessary steps to compel the removal or abatement of nuisances, provide a proper supply of water, and construct, or cause to be constructed, where it may be necessary, proper sewers and drains.

The Public Health Act of 1878, repealed all previous Sanitary Acts, re-enacting, amending and consolidating their provisions, so as to comprise in one Statute the entire Sanitary Law as it at present exists in Ireland.

The principal subjects dealt with in the Act are :—

Sewerage and Drainage.

Scavenging and Cleansing.

Water Supply.

Abatement and Removal of Nuisances.

Lodging Houses.

Markets and Slaughter Houses.

Infectious Diseases.

So that the scope of the statute is comprehensive, as the machinery for effectuating its beneficial purposes is complete. I rejoice to say, that its worth has been widely recognized. The increasing activity of the local authorities is demonstrated in the most conclusive way, by the amount of their expenditure for the last six years, as it appears in the audited accounts of the Board. I shall give you the figures, and you will judge how satisfactory they are.

| YEAR. | Expenditure by<br>Rural Sanitary<br>Authority | Expenditure by<br>Urban Sanitary<br>Authority. | Total. |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|
|       | £                                             | £                                              | £      |
| 1875  | 32,934                                        | 25,933                                         | 58,867 |
| 1876  | 39,676                                        | 28,567                                         | 68,243 |
| 1877  | 44,870                                        | 29,185                                         | 74,055 |
| 1878  | 48,157                                        | 37,601                                         | 85,758 |
| 1879  | 50,767                                        | 30,312                                         | 81,079 |
| 1880  | 51,927                                        | Not yet known.                                 | —      |

But even more striking than this evidence of effort and progress is that which is afforded by the amount of the loans obtained from the Board of Works, in those successive years, on the recommendation of the Local Government Board, "for objects," in the words of the Public Health Act, "which may be deemed sanitary improvements."

|          |   |   |   |   |         |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---------|
| 1875-6,  | . | . | . | . | £37,584 |
| 1876-7,  | . | . | . | . | 41,085  |
| 1877-8,  | . | . | . | . | 62,056  |
| 1878-9,  | . | . | . | . | 124,454 |
| 1879-80, | . | . | . | . | 265,179 |
| 1880-81, | . | . | . | . | 199,252 |

It is not easy to over-estimate the importance to Ireland of the sanitary work which is thus proved to have been done. It has been of double advantage, by relieving the poor at seasons of sore distress, and securing the permanent improvement of the health of the community.

Again, I think, I may confidently say, that, in a department so deeply affecting the comfort and the happiness of a People, Ireland need not be ashamed of the progress she is making and has made.

And for her, that progress is especially important. Health and social morals run closely together. Cleanliness and godliness are in alliance; and wholesome and commodious dwellings are important instruments of civilisation. The squalidness of his home drives the artisan for light and solace to the public house. The mud cabin, with its single room and crowded foulness, is not very compatible with the formation of habits of ordered industry; and, save in a country still marvellously pure, its inmates would be subjected to many dangers. It is of great consequence, for reasons like these, which might be largely multiplied, that our sanitary work should extend not merely to lodging houses but, as far as may be, to the dwellings, generally, of the humbler classes; and that the English effort in that direction, which has been so happily prosecuted under the benevolent guidance of Lord Shaftesbury, should have wide and cordial imitation here.

I do not desire to take credit to your Association which it may not fairly claim; but you will permit me to mention, in illustration of the topic I have last considered, a not unpleasant reminiscence of 1861, of which record is made in the biography of one of our philanthropic citizens. In the autumn of that year, Mr. Senior and Mr. James Haughton resolved to give some practical application to wise suggestions which had been made as to the utility of ornamental gardening in public parks such as beautifies those of London, at the expense of the Imperial taxes. They prepared a memorial to the Executive. It was received with favour; and the People's Garden rose into existence—at once a boon to multitudes who enjoy its beauty, and a worthy monument to the genial and accomplished Viceroy—a true lover of the country he delighted to make his home,—whose graceful statue continues to adorn it.

And, touching thus on a local theme in connexion with Public Health, I may be permitted also to allude to the great undertaking by which, to the lasting honour of the man who conceived it and completed it, in spite of misconception and resistance, this city receives an abundant supply of pure water, secured by a vast but most profitable expenditure, which amounts, I am informed, up to the present time, to £530,000. Nor should I forget to mention, in the same connexion, the gratitude which is due

to a munificent nobleman who has lavishly employed his fortune in making one of the finest squares in Europe a place of joyous resort to his fellow citizens.

I can only make the briefest allusion to a measure most worthy of attention in the Department to which I am referring—the Irish Sunday Closing Act. It was hotly contested and violently denounced ; but it has succeeded beyond expectation : and its moralising influence in removing, even partially, the withering curse of national intemperance, has made it a practical reform of a high order. I cannot dwell on the mode of its operation ; but the results are indicated in the most conclusive way by the unanswerable evidence of our criminal statistics. In 1878, when it was in action for a few months, the number of punishable cases of drunkenness was reduced by 3,000 as compared with the year 1877. In 1879, when it was in full force, the reduction was 11,000, and last year it was 22,000, the number of offences, which, in 1877, was 110,000 having fallen to 88,048. It is not wonderful, that success so signal, proved by these figures and in many other ways, should already have induced wise and good men to imitate the example of Ireland in other districts of the Empire, with the sanction and by the authority of the legislature. And does it not give us fair ground for hope, that the undoubted and most salutary improvement in the drinking customs of the wealthier classes may be gradually extended to the multitudes beneath them ; and that we may be emancipated, more and more, from the cruel dominion of a vice which is to us the perennial source of crime and misery, and degrades these kingdoms in the estimation of the world ?

It would be impossible for me, after such a merciless exhaustion of your patience, by the presentment of so many subjects within the limits of a single address, to dwell upon the topics in connexion with Irish progress which would properly range themselves within your departments of Economy and Art. They press for attention which I cannot give to them. But, touching only the *summa fastigia rerum*, I would not leave imperfect my inadequate enumeration of things accomplished within twenty years by omitting mention of the most memorable of them all ;—the Act which recognized the principle of Religious Equality, and the Land Reforms of 1870 and 1881,—transcending,

for the Irish people, in the greatness of their conception and the magnitude of their results, any legislative measures of the century.

They need no further reference; but the Congress may recognise, as a matter of special and present interest, that a movement has begun for the promotion of Irish Manufactures. This was essential to us. Exclusive reliance on their agricultural resources by the vast majority of our people has been the cause of stagnation in their national life, and continually recurring penury and suffering. The composite blood of mixed races tends to their mental and physical supremacy; and mixed industries are needful to a community which aims to be prosperous, especially if they are at the mercy of an uncertain climate. Ireland needs manufacturing success to save her from the calamities entailed by varying seasons, and secure her proper station in the world. She has ample capacity to attain it; and only needs the will and a knowledge of the way. It is, therefore, in the last degree satisfactory to find that all her classes, of all religious and political denominations, are emulating each other in a great endeavour to supply this cardinal necessity. We must wish it God speed! But whilst we do so, and help it as we can, we should remember that similar attempts have been made in other times and issued in disappointing and disastrous failure. And we should learn from the sad experience to avoid the errors which have baffled hope and effort like our own. Much patience and perseverance are needed to build up the broken fortunes of a nation. Enthusiasm exhausts itself. The violation of economic laws—as fixed in their operation as those of the material world, although their application must vary in varying circumstances—is surely followed by discomfiture. And if we would succeed in this needful undertaking, we must not forget that, in the long run, the best article will command the highest price; and that to hold our ground, in the open competition which tests conflicting powers, we must apply ourselves to the industries specially suited to Ireland, and likely to be most profitable here; and become possessed of industrial habits and industrial aptitudes fitting us to meet our neighbours in an honorable rivalry, in which for them, as for us, there will be “a fair field and no favour.” The value of organization is great,

The ardour of preparation is encouraging. Exhibitions and councils and committees and subscription lists are of value as they fix attention on the ample and undeveloped resources of the island; awaken to honest effort, and confirm well-founded expectation; inspire us with self-reliance and self-respect, and so lead on to the promotion of a sound industrial system, approving itself to mankind by the worth of its productions. If this be achieved, we shall redeem the failures of the past; if it be not, we shall only repeat them. But we need not fail. In far worse times, our forefathers were proving their fitness for industrial eminence, when an unworthy intolerance of their prosperity struck it down beneath the weight of imperial power. It has never fully rallied. But the hour has come for its revival. The blow which destroyed it cannot be repeated. In happier circumstances, it will have free scope for the largest expansion, and if it do not flourish the blame will be our own.

“The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,  
But in ourselves, that we are underlings!”

Only a word as to our relation with the department you have lately added to your Programme. The conditions of life in Ireland have not been, for many a century, consistent with the successful culture of the Fine Arts. They could not flourish in times, too much prolonged, of turmoil and misery and social chaos. We boast an ancient civilization, which distinguished our island when darkness brooded on the world,—connecting the learning of famous seminaries, to which multitudes flocked from other nations—*amandati in Hiberniam ad disciplinas*—with excellence in art, still evidenced by the venerable ruins of our churches, and by remnants of rare workmanship in the precious metals and the sculptured crosses and rich illuminations of early Christian times, which have survived ages of strife and suffering, and are still to be inspected in our Irish Academy and Trinity College. We are proud of their attestation to the old endowments of a country, which in later days, has vindicated its claim to artistic eminence by the great works of Barry, and Maclise, and Hogan, and Foley, and others who are gone; and of living men who inherit their genius and will emulate their fame.

We have been placed at a serious disadvantage. The poverty

of Ireland has not permitted a large patronage of art, and those who have been distinguished in any of its branches have found irresistible attraction and abundant reward in the English metropolis. But I am glad to be able to say that here, also, we have been making substantial advances. We have never, in later days, had such appliances and helps for the rising artist as we now possess.

Our National Gallery, under wise and conscientious supervision, continually undergoing fresh development, need not shrink from comparison with similar institutions of the Continent. Its contents are very choice in their character and very comprehensive in the range of their subjects. A Science and Art Museum has been established with every prospect of giving, in a short time, effective encouragement to art-studies as applied to manufactures. Our Hibernian Academy was never so prosperous and so well endowed. Its visitors are increasing annually by many thousands, and, notwithstanding the hardness of the times, the purchasers of pictures become year by year more numerous and far more liberal in their expenditure. I allude to those things, only that I may not omit all reference to our successful action in connexion with one of the most interesting of your Departments: but I do not desire to intrude on the province of my noble friend, who will preside in it, and more fittingly explain the nature and extent of the improvements to which I have lightly pointed.

I have completed the task I proposed to myself, in a manner inevitably perfunctory and imperfect. I could not recount transactions ranging through twenty years, in the time prescribed to me, and hope to do so with any completeness. But, I shall be content, and you will pardon my many shortcomings, if I have indicated to you the results of honest effort by Irishmen of this generation, in obtaining for their country amended laws,—cheap and facile justice,—education, liberal unconditioned and available to all,—the enforcement of the crowning virtue of a Christian civilization by sheltering the friendless child and watching over the unhappy lunatic,—free and equal exercise of the rights of conscience,—increased provision for the national health and comfort,—and security in his possessions and encouragement to his industry for the tiller of the soil. In the midst of many troubles and much discouragement, these have

been steps of real and cheering progress :—improvements permanently conquered from the past, and auspicious, as they will be fruitful, of a happier future. They all belong to the great field of social reform which you desire to cultivate ; and I am sure you will appreciate them ; and find in them cause for pleasure and hopefulness in the prosecution of your labours. To those labours I leave you, thanking you for your patient kindness, and again bidding you a cordial welcome to the Capital of Ireland,