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1858.

DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY,

FOUNDED, 1847.

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THE object of the Society is the promotion of the study of Statistics, Political Economy, and Jurisprudence. The meetings are held on the third Monday in each month, from November to June, inclusive, at 8, P. M. The business is transacted by members reading written communications on some subject in Statistics, Political Economy, or Jurisprudence. No communication is read unless two members of the council certify that they consider it in accordance with the rules and objects of the Society. The reading of each paper, unless by express permission of the council previously obtained, is limited to *half an hour*.

Applications for leave to read papers should be made to the secretaries at least a *week* before the meeting.

Proposals of candidate members should be sent to the secretaries, No. 1, Nelson-street, at least a *fortnight* before the meeting.

The subscription to the Society is ten shillings entrance, and *ten shillings* per annum.

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*The preceding numbers of this Journal may be had on application to
Messrs. M'Glashan and Gill, 50, Upper Sackville-street.*

JOURNAL

OF THE

Dublin

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

MARCH, 1858.

I.—Report of the Council at the Opening of the Eleventh Session of the Society.

[Read Monday, 18th January, 1858.]

GENTLEMEN,

In entering upon the Eleventh Session of the Dublin Statistical Society, we feel much pleasure in being able to notice several occurrences which indicate not only the stability of our institution, but the extension of its sphere of usefulness, and its increasing capability of promoting the scientific and social ends the advancement of which was contemplated by its founders. In the foremost rank among these events we must place the meeting in Dublin of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which, as you are aware, took place in August last. In the local arrangements of the Association some of our officers took an active part. On the Committee of the section of Statistics and economical Science, we were also fully represented; two of your secretaries acted as the secretaries of that section; and the meetings of its committee were numerous attended by members of your council and society. At the first of these, as well as constantly throughout the meetings of the section, the chair was occupied by our President, His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, who, having inaugurated the opening of the section with an address, on several occasions took part in the discussions. In addition to the selection and arrangement of the papers ordered to be read each day, the committee recommended the prosecution of several inquiries in relation to questions of social interest. The matters thus chosen were the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Ireland, and the average rate of Income in several of

the learned professions, subjects which had been respectively brought before the Section by Mr. Arthur Moore and Professor Leslie. To these must be added certain inquiries relative to the Irish Famine, which had been recommended at the Ipswich Meeting; a report on the present state and prospects of Free Trade on the Continent and in America; the collection of statistical facts showing the influence of the form of ships on the economy of mercantile transport; and the general extension of the system of public and competitive examinations for appointments in the various departments of the public service. The committees appointed for the prosecution of the enquiries thus suggested include many members of our Society. These also contributed largely to the sectional proceedings of the British Association. Among the papers read by our members may be mentioned a valuable essay by Professor Cairnes, in which he traced the effects of the new gold, regarded as an instrument of purchase, on the production and distribution of real wealth; an interesting account by Mr. Bianconi of his car establishment, and the social improvements which the increased facilities of travelling thus afforded had wrought in Ireland; two essays by Professor Leslie, on "Competition at the Bar," and "Professional Incomes," which led to an animated discussion; and a paper by Mr. James Moncrieff Wilson on the "Statistics of Crime in Ireland from 1842 to 1856," which is printed in the last number of our Journal, and constitutes an important contribution to a subject of great national as well as general interest. Mr. James Haughton also read before the section of Economic Science an essay "On the necessity of prompt measures for the Suppression of Intemperance;" and Mr. Locke a paper on the "Incumbered Estates Court Commission." Dr. Hancock, on behalf of our late secretary and now honorary member Dr. Walsh, read a paper relative to the alleged success of certain communities inhabiting places called "equitable villages" in America; and Mr. Jemison submitted to the section his views on the "Prevention of Crime." Neither can we omit referring to the interesting statements made to the Association respecting the progress of Free Trade on the Continent, but more particularly in Belgium, by Monsieur Jottrand, a distinguished advocate in Brussels, and Monsieur Corr Vander Maeren, president of the "International Free Trade Association," and an honorary member of our Society. The latter of these discourses has been published in the last number of our Journal.

Having thus mentioned the meeting of the British Association in Dublin, the active part which our Society took in contributing to its success, and the advancement of the scientific and social objects which we pursue in common with that body, the Council has much pleasure in referring to an occurrence which may be regarded as a further step in the progress of social investigation, and an additional proof of the increasing interest felt by the public in such inquiries. The subject here alluded to is the foundation of the "National Association for the promotion of Social Science," which held its first meeting in the month of October of last year at Birmingham. The Inaugural Addresses delivered on that occasion have been published, and include, besides an introductory discourse by the President, Lord Brougham, the addresses given by the presi-

dents of the sections. These were delivered by Lord John Russell on "Jurisprudence and the Amendment of the Law;" by Sir John Pakington on "Education;" by Lord Stanley on "Public Health;" and by Sir Benjamin Brodie on "Social Economy." The four departments thus represented, together with a fifth relating to "Punishment and Reformation," indicate the entire scope and object of the Association as set forth in its programme and realized at its meeting. It sufficiently appears from this statement that the sphere of the labours of the National Association in relation to social science, thus defined, corresponds in essential particulars to that which was adopted by our Society when the social Inquiry Society was merged in it, and the subject of Jurisprudence added to those of Statistics and Political Economy, which constituted the original objects of our Society. The terms thus employed have besides been liberally interpreted by the Council, who, while they have on the one hand studiously avoided the introduction of any subjects which could lead to discussions of an acrimonious or party nature, have on the other hand been most anxious to render the meetings and publications of our Society instrumental to the diffusion of social truths and the fair discussion of the social problems that bear on the most important interests of our own time and civilization.

The Council feel that they may appeal to the Transactions of our Society, as affording satisfactory evidence of the good effects resulting from the enlargement thus made in its objects, and the success of the course since pursued. The papers printed in the Journal for the last year sufficiently indicate the direction thus taken. As regards contributions of a more purely economical nature, we may refer to the paper read by Mr. Thomas Cairnes on the "Expediency of the Differential Duty on Hops;" to that by Mr. Murphy on the "Principles of a Note Circulation:" to one on "German Banks of Issue," being an abstract of a pamphlet written and presented to the Society by Herr Hartwig Hertz, one of our corresponding members; and to two by Mr. Henry Dix Hutton, on the "Free Trade Movement on the Continent." Questions relating to jurisprudence and the amendment of the law were discussed in the papers read by Mr. Murphy on the "Law relating to Joint Stock Bank Companies;" by Mr. Wrenfordsley on the "Abolition of Fees in Chancery;" and by Mr. Henry Dix Hutton on "Tribunals of Commerce." The subject of punishment and reformation was considered in a paper by Mr. M'Kenna on the "Disposal of our Convicts." The Rev. Thomas Jordan contributed two interesting essays, one entitled "The Present State of the Dwellings of the Poor, chiefly in Dublin;" the other, "The Decrease of Pauperism, How far the Work of the Poor?" in which he pointed out the close connexion which subsists between the sanitary condition of human habitations and the social and moral state of their occupants; and while he urged upon the richer classes the duty of effecting improvements which individual efforts were insufficient to accomplish, pointed out the great exertions that the poorer classes often made to preserve their self-respect, and to keep themselves and their families from sinking into pauperism. The valuable paper of Dr. Robert McDonnell, on "Our Hospital System compared with those of England, France,

and Austria," was also conversant with questions of public health and social economy; while these subjects, as well as that of education, were considered by Mr. Haughton in his essay on "The Social and Moral Elevation of the Working Classes."

The Library of the Society has received some valuable additions during the past year. Among these may be mentioned the series of Statistical Tables published annually by the Government of the Netherlands, for which we are indebted to M. Von Baumhauer, the head of the Statistical department at the Hague; various books and pamphlets relating to Belgium, presented by M. Corr Vander Maeren; several works by Herr Hartwig Hertz on Political Economy, besides tables illustrative of the trade and condition of Hamburg; and different publications by the Board of Agriculture in Canada, with a valuable series of maps of that country, contributed by Mr. William Hutton, the secretary of the department.

The Council also feel satisfaction in being able to give a favorable report of the success which continues to attend the administration of the trust confided to their management, by the trustees of the Barrington Bequest for the promotion of popular instruction in Political Economy. These lectures, delivered during the past year in the several towns where they were appointed to be given, have been attended by good audiences, who testified their interest in the economical subjects brought before them, and their gratification at the manner in which these were treated by the lecturers. For the present year the applications made for courses of Barrington lectures by institutions in the towns of Armagh, Clonmel, Enniskillen, and Kilrea have been acceded to; and the gentlemen selected by the Council with that view are Mr. Evelyn, Mr. Busteed, and Mr. Jemison.

In concluding our report, we think it right to notice the delay which has taken place in the holding of our annual meeting. This has been postponed beyond its usual time in consequence of negotiations which are still pending between the Council and the Royal Dublin Society respecting the meeting of our Society on their premises.

II.—*Address delivered at the opening of the Eleventh Session of the Society.* By James Anthony Lawson, Q.C., LL.D., one of the Vice-Presidents.

[Read Monday, 18th January, 1858.]

GENTLEMEN of the Statistical Society, I assure you it is with no ordinary feelings both of pride and pleasure that I stand here in the position in which your kindness has placed me, to address you this evening. My first duty is to return you thanks for having elected me one of your Vice-Presidents. I recollect with some degree of satisfaction that I was one of the original members of the