

REPORT
OF
THE ADDRESS
ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE
FIRST SESSION
OF THE
DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY,
DELIVERED BY
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN,
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.
TOGETHER WITH THE
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,
READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, 19TH JUNE, 1848.

DUBLIN:
PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY BY HODGES AND SMITH,
104, GRAFTON STREET.
1848.

DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

President:

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.

Vice-Presidents:

MOUNTIFORD LONGFIELD, ESQ. Q. C. LL.D.

CAPTAIN THOMAS A. LARCOM, R. E.

Members of Council:

SIR ROBERT KANE,	PROFESSOR ALLMAN, M.D.
W. COOKE TAYLOR, LL.D.	JAMES HAUGHTON, Esq.
ROBERT BALL, Esq.	W. T. MULVANY, Esq.
REV. PROFESSOR GRAVES, F.T.C.D.	SURGEON WILDE,
JOHN K. INGRAM, Esq. F.T.C.D.	ROBERT VANCE, Esq.
PROFESSOR APJOHN, M.D.	CONWAY E. DOBBS, JUN. Esq.

Treasurer:

STEWART BLACKER, ESQ., Gardiner's-place.

Secretaries:

JAMES A. LAWSON, LL.B., 41, Lower Baggot-street.

PROFESSOR HANCOCK, LL.B., 40, Trinity College.

THIS society was established in November, 1847, for the purpose of promoting the study of Statistical and Economical Science. The meetings are held on the third Monday in each month, from November till June, inclusive, at 8, P. M. The business is transacted by members reading written communications on subjects of Statistical and Economical Science. No communication is read, unless two members of the council certify that they consider it accordant 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* previous to the meeting.

Proposals of candidate members should be sent to the secretaries at least a *fortnight* previous to the meeting.

The subscription to the society is one pound entrance, and *ten shillings* per annum.

Report of the Address on the Conclusion of the first Session of the Dublin Statistical Society. Delivered by His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, President of the Society.*

HE said it was scarcely necessary for him to say how satisfactory it was to him to be present at so numerous and influential a meeting of the Dublin Statistical Society; and he believed it was equally needless for him to express how anxiously and sincerely he desired to see that society, as it now appeared to be, flourishing and progressing. (Hear, hear.) The present meeting was doubly satisfactory to him; it was an evidence of both cause and effect—the latter perceptible in the increased attention which appeared to be devoted to the science of Political Economy, and that arising from the obvious zeal, energy, and exertion evinced by the members of the society in its cultivation. The meeting was satisfactory both as regarded the past and the future; the past, because of the progress which the society had already made, (for who, twenty years ago, would have thought that such an assemblage of scientific men could be collected for the purpose of promoting the cultivation of Political Economy?) and satisfaction was to be derived as regards the future, from the contemplation of the successful progress ensured by the co-operation of such men as constituted the society. It was not possible that the exertions of such men for the cultivation, and, above all, the diffusion of the science of Political Economy, should be in vain.

He would say diffusion, because it was in vain to think any real, permanent, or general good could be effected by the fact of five or six men of taste and science cultivating this science, whilst it was neglected by all others. The very best theories were but useless until made practical and public. They were as useless as models hidden in the study of the mechanic. (Hear.) All that had been achieved in scientific discovery—all that had been effected by the application of steam to locomotion on railways, or the propelling of ships—in fine, all that had been contrived for the benefit and comfort of mankind—all had been useless or never achieved, if the theories which led to their adoption had not been promulgated and put into practice. A science so important as that of Political Economy was not to be confined to a few; it was not merely to form the occupation of the studious leisure of a man of taste and genius. No; but it was

* This report is taken from the *Irish Railway Gazette* of the 26th June, 1848.

to be diffused generally amongst the people, to whom the acquirement of it was of the deepest importance. (Hear, hear.)

When he spoke of the satisfaction he felt on this occasion, he could not but advert to the attention, zeal, and exertions of the University professors in assisting in the cultivation and diffusion of this important science. To them the society owed much of its success. He would not speak in the presence of at least some of them now present, as he would under other circumstances; but this he should say, that the University professors had shown their zeal and desire to encourage the cultivation and diffusion of the science of Political Economy, and had also exerted themselves to create a taste for the study of it. Let them look back on the state of things previous to the establishment of the professorship of Political Economy in their university. Very few thought at all of the subject, and the few who did think of it entertained fallacious and erroneous notions relative to it. As for himself, as in connexion with the subject, he (the chairman) considered himself but as removed from the University of Oxford to that of Dublin; and when, on leaving that place, he retired from the chair of Political Economy, he was of opinion that a chair of Political Economy should be established in the Dublin University; and that University, with their characteristic liberality, acceded to his proposal, and accepted the professorship. But at the time, the prevailing want of generally diffused knowledge, on the subject of the science, was such, (and this he said to the credit of the University, for creating a professorship of a science of which there was no cultivation), that he hardly dared hope to succeed in finding a person well qualified to fill the office of professor of the science. This difficulty was not surprising to him, though disheartening; and were it not for the serious considerations it involved, the difficulty would have been laughable. The late Provost, whose zeal and ardour in the cause of science were well known, told him that it had been suggested to him that, in the absence of any person having a full knowledge of the science, a person should be selected as the professor of Political Economy who should be of sound and safe conservative views. He (the chairman) was not a little appalled at such a suggestion, involving as it did the introduction of party politics into a subject of abstract science—party politics having about as much to do with Political Economy as they had with manufactures or agriculture. (Hear, hear.)

The matter was left finally to him (the chairman), who consented that it should be so, on condition that he should submit certain questions with reference to the science, in writing, to the several candidates, who were to reply under symbolical names; he (the chairman) being in perfect ignorance of the names of the candidates. This was done: and to his surprise he found that there were no less than three candidates at the first election, whom he found perfectly competent to undertake the

duty, and fill creditably the chair of Political Economy. (Hear, hear.) He said, to his surprise, because he knew that this science did not form any part of the collegiate course at the time. He pursued a similar course at each subsequent vacancy, and the difficulty was found to be not, whether any of the candidates were competent, but which was the most competent. He might add, he did not know if there were Englishmen or members of an English University, among the candidates; but it was certain Irishmen were elected in every case, though Englishmen were not excluded. Members of the English Universities were held eligible; and it was agreed on that so poor a compliment should not be paid to the Dublin University, as to leave it to be supposed that competition was dreaded with members of the English Universities. It was thought most advisable to allow free competition; and it was not considered that an Irishman would have no chance in competition with an Englishman. That was the principle of free trade—(hear, hear)—and it would not be just or right if free competition was to be restrained by any restriction whatever. It was not fair to hamper mental exertion, or confine a privilege to any one locality, or to place fair competition in science, any more than in the arts or manufactures, under any restriction or monopoly—(hear, hear)—for where such was allowed, competition ceased, industry became paralyzed and destroyed.

He spoke of calling forth the genius of the people in the direction of Political Economy, not only to have it cultivated among the learned, but also amongst the people generally, as the only means which existed of rescuing the country from convulsion. It was a mistake to suppose that religion or morals alone would be sufficient to save a people from revolution. No; they would not be sufficient, if a proper idea of Political Economy was not cultivated by that people. A man, even of the purest mind and most exalted feelings, without a knowledge of Political Economy, could not be secured from being made instrumental in forwarding most destructive and disastrous revolutions. A man of that kind might think it possible for the landlords to support and feed all the poor of the country; he might adopt the doctrine, that a landlord with a limited number of acres should support and feed an unlimited number of mouths; should that doctrine be adopted, and laws passed to that effect, the landlords would be crushed by that ruinous system, and swept off as a class altogether. A man of this kind, though of the purest feelings and intentions, and of the most exalted morality, may be led to undertake the formation of what is called a "provision-*all*" government—(laughter)—and then a ten hours' labor bill would be brought in; then it would be reduced to a working time of eight hours, six hours, and so on—doubtless very popular, till labour and industry would be at a stand; and a people led by such men would fall into the wildest excesses, and would take part in

any ruinous revolution fatal to all classes, and not the least fatal to the working classes themselves.

To show how the ignorant may be misled—an acquaintance of his friend Dr. Hinds quoted the Bible to justify the resistance of servants to their masters; he quoted the passage, “masters, give to your servants what is sufficient.” But Dr. Hinds, on hearing this, remarked, that the servants spoken of in scripture were bond-*slaves*, and their masters were bound to support them fairly, whether their work was profitable or not; the case was different as between the employer and employed when hired. He would repeat that the great evil in those cases arose from ignorance of the principles of Political Economy. Charity was inculcated by religion and morality; but need it be said that ill-directed charity does more harm than even perhaps none at all. By careless and indiscriminate charity, a bounty was given to the continuance or simulation of distress; and benevolence of that kind never yet elevated or improved the condition of a people. It was like cutting a portion off one end of a garment to sew it to another; by it the industrious were robbed and the idle encouraged. Charity was a duty; but he would say that charity, for its proper exercise, required, more than any other duty of life, just and sound views of Political Economy.

The study, moreover, was one particularly important in a *free* country, where every one might be said to take part in the government of the state—and he had heard so much about the enslavement of Ireland, that he was thereby convinced she was a free country. (Laughter.) At all times, and especially in troubled times like the present, a knowledge of the principles of this science was essential to the prosperity of the nation. Everything turned upon sound and just views of what were the proper functions of the government, and what effects the interference of government could produce on the prosperity of the country. That was especially to be considered at the present time, when there was so much of popular excitement; because on this subject, as on most others, the fallacies lay upon the surface. He who would look for pearls must dive deeply. It had been well remarked by Hooker, that if a man harangued a multitude in order to prove to them that they were not well governed, he would never want hearers. But if they did not teach the principles of Political Economy, they would allow the land to remain fallow, and weeds would spring up of themselves. For example, what could seem more obvious to an ignorant or uninstructed multitude, than if it were said to them: “What a shame it is that there should be a man having £5000 a year, when hundreds are starving. If that sum were divided amongst one hundred poor families, it would give them £50 a year each, and by carrying out that principle generally, we would have no poor.” Now, it could be easily explained to them, that this wealth *was* in reality divided, and that rich men did in reality support poor

families by affording them profitable employment. It could be shown that if we plundered all the rich, and distributed their wealth amongst the poor, instead of benefiting the labouring classes thereby, we should render property insecure, and destroy all incentives to honorable industry.

He contended that these principles could be explained even to the ploughman, and made clear to the comprehension of children. If he had broached the idea some years ago, that it was possible to instruct children in the science of Political Economy, it would have been laughed at as the most chimerical notion that could enter into the brain of a visionary. But instead of *saying* that such a thing was possible, he tried the experiment; and it fully succeeded. There were certain familiar treatises on this subject, containing the fundamental principles of the science, which were now placed in the hands of a large portion of the population of Great Britain and Ireland, and were taught in more than four thousand schools to the children of the poorer classes in this country; and on examination, it would be found that the boys who formed the higher classes in these schools—lads of from thirteen to fourteen years of age—had an intimate knowledge of the principles of this science, which was generally considered to be so abstruse and difficult of attainment.

Next to sound religion, sound Political Economy was most essential to the well-being of society. It had been too much the practice heretofore, to confine this species of knowledge to a few; and the object of the Statistical Society was to diffuse it as widely as possible amongst the people. When any one spoke to him of the dangers attending the study of Political Economy, he would reply:—"Undoubtedly the dangers are great, but the way to avoid them is to substitute sound doctrines for fallacies; for one or the other you must have." (Hear, hear.) Without casting any disparagement upon the other societies which existed in Dublin, such as the Zoological Society, and the Natural History Society, of which he himself was a member, and several others for whose success he was most anxious; he thought that in comparison with those, this society might be addressed in the words of Virgil:—

"Excudent alii spirantia mollius æra,
Credo equidem, et vivos ducent de marmore vultus;
Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento,
Hæ tibi erunt artes."

For the world must be governed, has been governed, and will be governed by Political Economists, though many of them were very bad ones. (Laughter.) The science of government was intimately connected with that of Political Economy; and therefore it was desirable for the welfare and prosperity of society, that the true principles of the latter should be thoroughly understood and acted upon. Just as he was called a physician who prescribed for the sick, and undertook to administer medicine, whether skilful

or ignorant; that man might be called a political economist who prescribed for the diseases of the state, and took upon him to regulate the productions of national wealth, and to determine what should or should not be done by individual exertion. This was an institution for instructing not a few recluse students, but the people at large, in the knowledge of that science which all must practice, whether they practice it well or ill; and upon the good or bad practice of which the welfare of the nation, at all times, and at such times as these especially—nay, the very existence of the nation as a civilized community—must mainly depend. He congratulated them, therefore, upon the formation, and the promising—he might also say, flourishing—condition of an institution such as this; and 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. (His Grace resumed his seat amid loud cheering.)

Report of the Council, read at the Annual Meeting, 19th June, 1848.

In presenting the first annual report, the council have much pleasure in referring to the proceedings of the society during the past year.

The progressive increase in the number of members from the 81 original founders to the present number of 110, affords the best indication of the interest which is taken in the society, and the progress it is making in public estimation.

The proceedings of the society have been fully as successful as the most sanguine could have anticipated. There were communications of interest and importance brought forward at each meeting, and the discussions upon them elicited much valuable information. An enumeration of the titles of the communications brought forward will best indicate the range of subjects which have thus been made the matter of investigation and discussion.

The first communication was on the appropriate subject of the Connexion between Statistics and Political Economy, by Mr. Lawson; this was followed by a paper on the Use of the Doctrine of *laissez faire* in investigating the Economic Resources of Ireland, by Mr. Neilson Hancock.

The other papers were as follows:—

On the Mortality of Irish Medical Practitioners, by Surgeon Wilde.

On the Effect of the Usury Laws on the Funding System, by Mr. Neilson Hancock.

On the Changes in the Nature and Locality of Textile Manufactures, consequent on the application of steam to their production, by Dr. Cooke Taylor.

On the English and Irish Analyses of Wages and Profits, by Mr. Robert Vance.

On the Condition of the Irish Labourer, by Mr. Neilson Hancock.

On Banking, by Dr. Longfield.

The Official Report of the Trustees of the Lurgan Loan Fund, by Mr. John Hancock.

On Emigration, by Mr. Conway Dobbs.

A Notice of the Theory, that there is no hope for a Nation that lives on Potatoes, by Mr. Neilson Hancock.

On the Economic Views of Bishop Berkeley and Mr. Butt, with

reference to the Theory, that a Nation may be benefited by the compulsory use of Native Manufactures, by Mr. Neilson Hancock.

On Commercial Panics, by Mr. Lawson; and the last communication was a Notice of a Plan for the Systematic Collection of Irish Economic Statistics, by Mr. Neilson Hancock.

Thus, the attention of the society has been engaged with some of the most important questions within the range of statistical and economical science.

The omission of one important branch of statistical investigation, will occur to those who are aware of the prominent place that communications on the statistics of crimes and punishments occupy in the proceedings of the Statistical Societies in England; but a circumstance occurred near the close of the session, which leads the council to anticipate that this will not be the case in future sessions. An effort was made to establish in Dublin a Howard Society, for the purpose of promoting investigations into the nature and effects of legal punishments. On the suggestion of Mr. Haughton, that the objects of the proposed society could be best effected by bringing forward communications in this society, the promoters of the Howard Society, who were not already members, consented to join this society, and several of them have been recently elected.

The council, after carefully considering the different modes of printing and circulating the communications read at the meetings, determined to try the plan of publishing each selected paper as it was read, in a separate form, but of a uniform size, so as to admit of being bound with others at the end of each session. Four of the papers have been published in this manner. Two others are in the press; and the council trust that, before the next meeting of the society, all the papers selected for publication will be in the hands of the members.

The council have in two instances exercised the power with which they are entrusted, of appointing special committees for promoting the investigation of particular subjects.

First, by appointing a committee consisting of Dr. Longfield, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Neilson Hancock, to consider and report on a systematic plan for collecting Irish Economic Statistics.

Secondly, by appointing a committee, consisting of Doctor Longfield, Mr. Napier, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Law, Mr. Dobbs, Mr. May, and Mr. Neilson Hancock, to consider the effects of the legal impediments to the transfer of land in Ireland, their extent, and the means of removing them.

These committees having been very recently appointed, have not as yet commenced their labours; but the council anticipates the most valuable results from these investigations, directed to subjects the most important, as far as Ireland is concerned, in the sciences of statistics or political economy.

The financial affairs of the society are in a most satisfactory state, as the subscriptions received have been sufficient to meet all

the expenses already incurred, leaving a balance to defray the expenses of the printing in progress. As there is a considerable amount of subscriptions still unpaid, the council will be enabled to complete the printing of the papers as soon as the arrears have been collected. The statement of the accounts, when audited, will be laid before the society at its next meeting.

In conclusion, the council beg to direct the attention of members to the approaching meeting of the British Association, which will be held at Swansea, on the 9th of August next. The statistical section will afford to them an opportunity of submitting their communications to the consideration of the most distinguished statisticians in the United Kingdom. They will also be enabled in that section, to learn the present state of knowledge and the most recent discoveries in statistical science.

Annual Statement of Accounts, 1848.

DR	PROFIT AND LOSS.	£	s.	d.	CONTRA.	£	s.	d.	
Oct. 28, 1848.					Oct. 28, 1848.				
To Preliminary Expenses		3	14	8	By Subscriptions from 110 Members	110	0	0	
— Expense of Meetings		36	3	7					
— Refreshments at Meetings		10	8	10					
— Printing Papers		18	7	2					
— Stock for net surplus		41	5	9					
		£110 0 0					£110 0 0		
DR.	BALANCE.	£	s.	d.	CONTRA	£	s.	d.	
Oct. 28, 1848.					Oct. 28, 1848.				
To Stewart Blacker, Esq. Treasurer		14	13	0	By Webb and Chapman	10	18	0	
— W. Neilson Hancock, Esq. Secretary		1	10	9	— Economic Statistics Committee	2	0	0	
— Members in arrear		38	0	0	— Stock	41	5	9	
		£54 3 9					£54 3 9		

We have examined these accounts, and inspected the vouchers, and certify them to be correct.
(Signed,)

JAMES WILLIAM MURLAND,
A. SHARMAN CRAWFORD.

AUDITORS.

11th November, 1848.