

II.—*Report of the Council at the Opening of the Twenty-Eighth Session.*

[Read Tuesday, 24th November, 1874.]

Barrington Lectures on Political Economy.

THE plan, introduced this time twelve-months, of applying to the management of the Barrington Lecture Trust Fund the change which had been previously applied to the public funds given towards scientific instruction in the provinces, has been so far successful.

For prelections in Political Economy, given on the old plan of the scientific lectures under the Lecture Committee at Dublin Castle, the Council have, with the assent of Messrs. Edward, Richard, and Arthur Barrington, trustees of the fund, substituted class instruction lectures, given under the auspices of local committees, by lecturers recommended by them, and approved of by the Lecture Committee of the Council.

The lecturers have been divided into two classes : (1) Those who have obtained University prizes in Political Economy ; (2) Schoolmasters who have obtained a certificate of qualification to teach Political Economy from the Council's Lecture Committee, after an examination into their attainments on the subject.

Of the first class, two lecturers have been selected ; the Rev. Samuel Prenter, on the recommendation of a Political Economy Class Committee of Belfast, and William H. Dodd, Esq., on the recommendation of the Committee of the Church of Ireland Young Men's Christian Association. The Belfast class numbered 55, and 18 passed a satisfactory examination. The Dublin class numbered 18, and 11 passed a satisfactory examination. Prizes were awarded to the successful students out of funds subscribed for the purpose by the local committees. The text-book used for the Dublin and Belfast classes consisted of selections from Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations."

Of the schoolmasters, sixteen presented themselves for examination for the Society's certificate, having been recommended by local committees ; the text-book used being the "Treatise on Political Economy," in Chambers' Educational series. Eleven obtained certificates of qualification ; and of these, eight have been selected and appointed Barrington Lecturers in the following places : Anahilt Endowed School, Co. Down, Mr. Andrew Clements ; Blackwater Town National School, Co. Tyrone, Mr. D. Campbell ; Caddlebrook, Co. Roscommon, Mr. Michael Mulhern ; Corraclare Science School, Co. Clare, Mr. C. McDermott ; Dunmanway Model School, Co. Cork, Mr. Edward Reynolds ; Drumcoe National School, Co. Donegal, Mr. John Lyons ; Limerick Model School, Co. Limerick, Mr. Moylan ; Lisned National School, Co. Fermanagh, Mr. John Magennis.

Papers read during the Session.

Of the papers read during the past session, two were on the sub-

ject of facilitating the transfer of land in Ireland—one by Mr. R. Denny Urlin, of the Record of Title Office; and the other by Professor Donnell, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Dublin.

The Bill of Lord Selborne for improving the transfer of land in England had created a renewed interest in this question; and this interest has been kept up by Lord Cairns having introduced a bill, framed to a large extent in the lines of Lord Selborne's Bill.

The principles thus sanctioned by the present and late Lord Chancellors of England, involve some of the points much required for the improvement of the system of transfer of land in Ireland.

Mr. Molloy read, at the January meeting, a "Report on the application of the principles recommended by the Judicature Commissioners to the Irish County Courts."

One of the recommendations in Mr. Molloy's report was carried into effect by Sir Colman O'Loughlen's Act for enlarging the jurisdiction of the Civil Bill Court in questions of title to land.

This report dealt with important reforms collateral with the Irish Judicature Bill, and necessary for the successful working of that measure for the benefit of the humbler class of suitors, and for the successful working of the purchase clauses of the Land Act of 1870, pointing especially to the re-constitution and regulation of the official staff of the local courts.

The Reports of Mr. Molloy and of Professor Donnell are two of those obtained under the munificent donation of Mr. Thom, which was applied for Reports on questions of Irish jurisprudence. The subjects of these two Reports have been referred by the Council to a Committee of legal Members of the Society, with a view to frame suggestions of heads of legislation to carry the recommendations, so far as approved of by the Committee, into effect.

On statistical questions two papers were contributed—one on "The Statistics of Insanity, Past and Present," by Mr. W. J. Corbet, of the Lunatic Asylum Office; and one "On the Remittances from North America, by Irish Emigrants, considered as an indication of character of the Irish race, and with reference to some branches of the Irish Labourer's Question," by Dr. Hancock.

At the meetings of the Society in May and June, Reports of Committees appointed by the Council were read. In May the Report of the Committee, on a twofold reference—(1) On Mr. Jephson's recommendations for "Securing greater attention to suggestions for amendments in the law, contained in reports and papers read before the Society"; (2) On Mr. Jonathan Pim's "Suggestions for obtaining information as respects the difference which now exists between the laws in force in England and those in force in Ireland;" and a paper was read by Dr. Hancock to illustrate the most convenient manner of carrying Mr. Pim's suggestions into effect.

At the June meeting, the "Report of the Committee on the suggestions for diminishing the excessive summoning of Jurors in the county and city of Dublin," was read.

A recommendation of this Committee for the abolition of Market

Juries was, on the motion of Sir Colman O'Loughlen, adopted by the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Irish Jury Laws; another recommendation for having, in the county and city respectively, only a single panel of Special and a single panel of Common Jurors for all the courts in each term, was proposed for England in Mr. Lopes's Jury Bill.

When the British Association visited Ireland in the autumn, this Society was represented at Belfast by the President, some Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary of the section for Economic Science and Statistics, having been selected from its members.

At the Social Science Congress in Glasgow, in October, the Society was represented by two members of Council attending and taking part in the proceedings.

III.—*Report of Committee of the Council on (1) Mr. Jephson's Suggestions for securing greater attention to Suggestions for Amendments in the Law, contained in Reports and Papers read before the Society; and on (2) Mr. Jonathan Pim's Suggestions for obtaining Information as respects the differences which now exist between the Laws in force in England, and those in force in Ireland.*

[Read Tuesday, 26th May, 1874.]

THE committee, appointed at the April meeting of the Council, to consider Mr. Jephson's and Mr. Pim's suggestions, met on Tuesday, 27th of April: present, Mr. Jonathan Pim, Vice-President, in the chair; Mr. Jephson, Mr. Brooke, Mr. William J. Hancock, Mr. Molloy, Dr. Hancock, and Mr. Joseph Pinn, and adopted the following report:

I.—*Plan for securing greater attention to Suggestions for Amendments in the Law, contained in Reports and Papers read before the Society.*

Mr. Jephson stated the impression he had formed, that some steps should be taken to secure greater attention to the suggestions for amendments in the law, contained in reports and papers read before the Society; and in suitable cases to bring such suggestions under the notice of members of the government.

The Secretaries submitted, as a guide for arranging a plan to carry out Mr. Jephson's suggestion, a precedent established by the course of proceeding adopted by the Council of the Society in 1858; when suggestions were made in a paper read before the Society, with respect to the necessity of legislation for securing the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Ireland.

The Laws of the Society, chap. III., s. 7, provided as follows:—
“The Council may form special committees for promoting the investigation of any particular subject, and may from time to time select