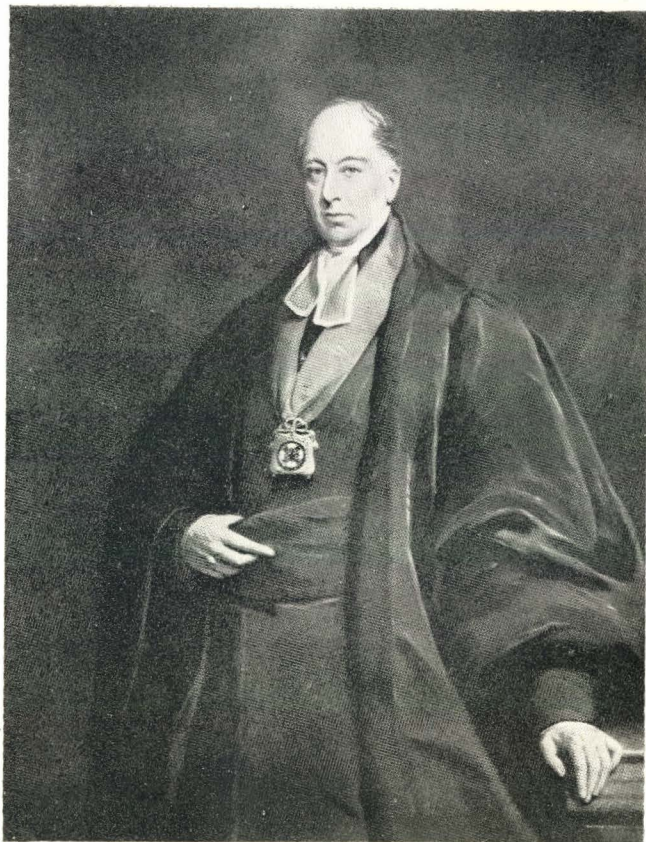


THE STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL INQUIRY
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

CENTENARY VOLUME

1847-1947

[Frontispiece.]



RICHARD WHATELY,
PRESIDENT, 1847-1863.

The Statistical and Social Inquiry Society
of Ireland

CENTENARY VOLUME
1847-1947

WITH A HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

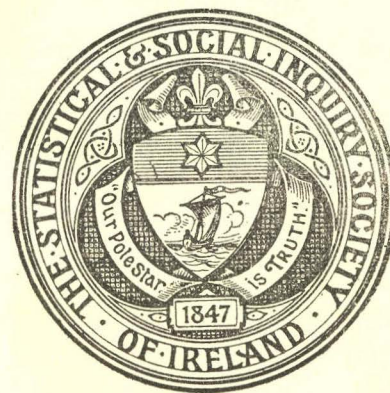
BY

R. D. COLLISON BLACK, M.A., B.COMM., PH.D.

*Lecturer in Economics in the
Queen's University of Belfast*

AND

INDEXES TO THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY



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CENTENARY VOLUME
1847-1947

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FOREWORD

THIS monograph has been prepared for the Centenary of the Society which will occur in the autumn of the present year. The prime object of the Council in sponsoring its publication has been to enable Members, prospective Members and the public generally to assess the value of the work of the Society. In his excellent historical and biographical essay Dr. Black makes no extravagant claims in this regard; he is wisely content to let the facts speak for themselves.

For diversity of interests and talents the 81 Foundation Members were as remarkable a body of men as ever assembled for a scientific purpose in Ireland. The Society probably owes its existence to the impact of the terrible events of 1846-47 on the conscience of these people. In the past 100 years the standard of living generally, and of the social services in particular, has vastly improved in Ireland, so that the country, which had one of the lowest standards in Europe in 1847, has now one of the highest. Perhaps the Society may not unfairly claim some of the credit for the improvement which has been achieved. It is certain that its contribution was significant in the research work which preceded the Land Acts, the most beneficial legislation enacted by the former régime in Ireland. In our own days a substantial part of the common currency of economic thought received its first hearing in the Society. The Oireachtas, public administration, universities, press and public are in the Society's debt for economic fact and train of argument.

The Society was founded just after the great Famine had ravaged the land and its Centenary occurs when the grim spectre bestrides a large part of Europe, though this country providentially has been spared. None the less our experience in recent years has revealed our economic vulnerability. Our best efforts will be required to maintain during the next few years the position that we have won. The problems of the past and their solutions seem simple compared with those of the complex social organisation of today, with the special problems which are the aftermath of war. If our tasks are greater than those which faced our Founders, however, the difficulties are the measure of our opportunities.

The function of the Society in the new Ireland is complementary to that of the Government statistical service and of the economic and social science schools in the Universities. It is an impressive thought that if economic studies in our Society or elsewhere improved the national income by one-tenth of one per cent. we are worth £250,000 per annum to the country! Scientific study of social problems is likely to yield vast dividends for intellectual capital invested even if, too close to events, we are not always able clearly to distinguish the more from the less important objects of study.

We embark on our second century with the largest Membership we have ever had, with the largest Journal, and generally our vitality leaves little to be desired. A satisfactory feature of our recent history has been the considerable influx of young Members. No doubt during the Centenary meetings we shall discuss the future of the Society in the light not only of our recent but of our remote past. Should we give more particular direction to our researches or should we leave the subjects and manner of treatment to take care of themselves, as was largely the case in the past? We may all agree, at any rate, that a great increase in Membership is desirable. We may hope that existing Members, particularly the younger Members, will take an increasingly active part in the life of the Society by the preparation of papers and participation in discussions on subjects of which they have special knowledge.

Looking through our records it is fascinating to observe how in each generation the studies under Society auspices reflected the public interests of the time. It is natural that many of the papers should now have merely historical interest, but Members cannot fail to be impressed by the pertinence to present-day problems of a few of the studies of remote date. The subjects of study change but the spirit in which inquiry is made remains the same. Our predecessors believed, as we believe, that ascertainment and analysis of the facts are an essential preliminary to the right solution of the social problem; and in most cases agreement as to the facts implies agreement as to solution. The motto our Founders selected is still ours: "Our Pole Star is Truth."

R. C. GEARY,
President.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Author wishes to acknowledge the helpful criticism and information which he has received from the members of the Publications Sub-Committee of the Society and others who read the manuscript—especially Professor George O'Brien, Dr. R. C. Geary, Mr. P. S. O'Hegarty and Mr. J. C. M. Eason. Mr. Eason has also been responsible for the Subject Index to the Society's Transactions, while Miss K. Bennett compiled the Author's Index and prepared the manuscript for the printers; thanks are particularly due to them for this work.

The thanks of the Society are also tendered to the Benchers of the Honourable Society of King's Inns for permission to reproduce the portrait of Right Hon. Lord O'Hagan; to the Council of the R.I.A. for that of John Kells Ingram; to Mrs. Bastable for that of C. F. Bastable; to Mr. Sean Hooper for that of his uncle, John Hooper; to the Governing Body of University College, Dublin, for that of Rev. T. A. Finlay; to Mrs. L. Cairnes for the photograph of John Elliott Cairnes (by Church, Belfast); to Dr. Edward Barrington Ffennell for lending a miniature of John Barrington; and to Sir Thomas Perceval Larcom, Bart., for Leslie Ward's drawing of his grandfather.

NOTE

The following abbreviations are used throughout:—

Journal D.S.S.—Journal of the Dublin Statistical Society.

Journal S.S.I.S.I.—Journal of the Statistical Society of Ireland.

Historical Memoirs—S. Shannon Millin: The Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland—Historical Memoirs with Portraits (Dublin, 1920).

Wherever the words 'the Statistical Society' are employed, they are to be understood to refer to the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland or the Dublin Statistical Society, unless otherwise stated.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

CHAPTER I.

FOUNDATION AND EARLY DAYS, 1847–1850

IN October, 1847, a small group of men met in No. 16, Trinity College, Dublin, in the rooms of William Neilson Hancock, then Whately Professor of Political Economy in the University of Dublin. They had come there to discuss the project of forming a Statistical Society in Dublin, and agreed to go ahead with the scheme, appointing Hancock and James A. Lawson, his immediate predecessor in the Whately Chair, as provisional secretaries of the embryo society.

These were the first steps leading to the formation "at a numerous and influential Meeting, held at the Royal Irish Academy" on November 23rd, 1847, of the Dublin Statistical Society, for the purpose of "promoting the study of Statistical and Economical Science." The Society began its existence that evening with Richard Whately, Archbishop of Dublin, as its first President, Mountifort Longfield, Q.C., and Captain Thomas A. Larcom as Vice-Presidents, Lawson and Hancock as Secretaries and Stewart Blacker as Treasurer. There were eighty-one original members, including twelve on the Council, and the list included some of the most distinguished Irishmen of the day. Perhaps the best remembered now is Isaac Butt, "the Father of Home Rule," who was then seven years out of the Whately Chair and establishing his great reputation as an advocate.¹ Other eminent lawyers were Joseph Napier, Thomas O'Hagan (later Baron O'Hagan) and Hugh Law, each of whom afterwards held the office of Lord Chancellor of Ireland. James Anthony Lawson and George Augustus Chichester May were later to occupy the position of Attorney-General, and the latter also to become Lord Chief Justice of Ireland.

The academic world was represented, besides the economists, by the Reverend Franc Sadleir, the liberal Provost of Trinity College, G. Johnston Allman, Professor of Mathematics at Queen's College, Galway, James Apjohn, the

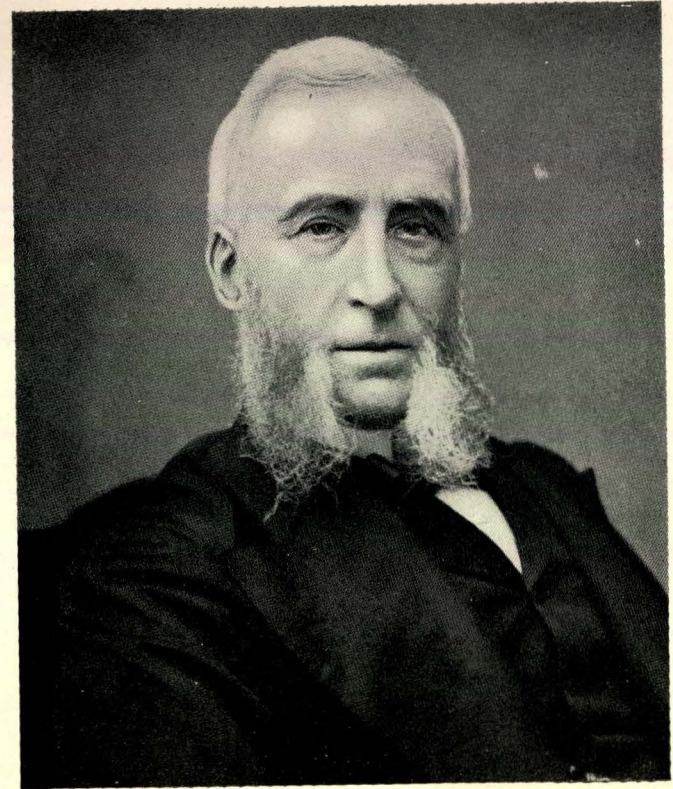
¹ For a full account of Butt's life see T. De Vere White: *The Road of Excess* (Dublin, 1946).

chemist, and Thomas Oldham, F.R.S., the geologist, whilst Sir Robert Kane, author of the famous work on "The Natural Resources of Ireland" and afterwards President of Queen's College, Cork, was another of the new Society's distinguished supporters. Literary men of varied talents were also included amongst the members—Samuel (afterwards Sir Samuel) Ferguson, who was poet as well as lawyer; William Cooke Taylor, who was then a statistical writer for the Irish government, but was also author and translator of many books and a leading member of the British Association from its foundation. An original member of the Council, Taylor might have become an important officer in the Statistical Society, but he met an untimely death from cholera in 1849. Especially notable was Sir William Wilde, whose connection with the Society was due to his work in the field of demographic statistics, but who was also famous in his day both as an oculist and an antiquarian. His name, however, seems destined for immortality as that of the father of a writer of genius.

The foundation of the Dublin Statistical Society at this particular time was the result of a number of influences. Perhaps the most immediate was Hancock's appointment as Whately Professor in 1846. Archbishop Whately always retained a keen interest in the Chair which he had founded in 1832, and he had considerable influence on the work of its occupants. To Hancock he suggested the plan of considering the application of the principles of Political Economy to the particular case of Ireland in his public lectures. Hancock adopted the idea, and since it is evident that the scheme for a Statistical Society originated with him, it seems reasonable to infer that it was an outgrowth of his inquiries into Irish conditions in his Whately lectures. In the early years of the Dublin Statistical Society there was always a close connection between it and the Whately Professors—each of the four who had held the Chair up to 1847 received important office at the foundation of the Society, and the Archbishop himself stated that it "had its origin in the lectures of the Professors of Political Economy."¹ Viewed from this aspect, the formation of the Society appears as an expansion of the movement for economic studies in Ireland which Whately had started in 1832; but that the expansion should have occurred at this particular stage was principally due to the notably 'social' character which Hancock was imparting to those studies.

¹ Whately, "Address at the Annual Meeting of the Social Inquiry Society, 3 November, 1851," page 6.

[To face page 2.]



WILLIAM NEILSON HANCOCK,
PRESIDENT, 1881-1882.

Certainly there was every reason for investigating the economic condition of the country at that time, and making the results known to wider audiences than those in the University.¹ Ireland's social distress had never been more evident than in 1847, with the Famine at its height. The immediate crisis roused the public conscience, and it was right to consider, as Hancock did in his first Whately lectures in 1847, how best it might be alleviated. Yet it was evident that that crisis, however dire, was only an outward manifestation of more fundamental evils, the potato blight only its most immediate cause. Social scientists and economists could have found no more useful work than the investigation of the causes and remedies of Ireland's economic wretchedness.

It was true that this was during a period of economic individualism, but this does not mean that there was no desire for reform. In the eighteen-forties particularly there was a wide development of humanitarianism and interest in social problems. The desire for reform was accompanied by a desire for information, particularly in statistical form, which might serve as a guide in social improvement. It was typical of the time that both ends were sought to be attained by means of societies and congresses of all kinds. Westergaard, in his "Contributions to the History of Statistics" speaks of this as "the Era of Enthusiasm":—

"Official statistical institutions were founded or re-established in several countries, and numerous statistical societies sprang up and worked in co-operation with these institutions. . . . Many motives may have been leading to the foundation of these societies, but the most striking one seems to have been the interest *in social problems*."²

In the United Kingdom this development must be dated from the formation of the Statistical Section of the British Association at its Cambridge meeting in 1833. This new section was somewhat irregularly formed as a result of the visit of Adolphe Quetelet, the famous Belgian astronomer and mathematician, who had brought with him important statistical papers which could not be received in any other section. But "At the concluding meeting of the Statistical Section at Cambridge it was resolved that a more permanent body was necessary to carry out the views and wishes of the

¹ It is true that the lectures of the Whately Professor were open to the public at this period, but they formed a connected course and were delivered during the day and so would naturally attract less attention than papers on specific topics given at evening meetings.

² H. Westergaard, *op. cit.* (London, 1932), pp. 136 and 141. Italics in original text.

Section, and it was agreed to establish a Statistical Society in London."¹

The London Statistical Society, which has since become the Royal Statistical Society, was formed in March, 1834. It had, however, been preceded by the Manchester Statistical Society, which first met in September, 1833 and still exists.² Encouraged by the London Society and stimulated by the example of local meetings of the British Association, many smaller statistical societies appeared throughout the United Kingdom at this time; the establishment, in 1838, of a Statistical Society of Ulster, an offshoot of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society is noteworthy.³ Scarcely any of these societies have survived, and the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland can now claim that there are only two similar societies in these Islands older than it, and indeed only five in the whole world.⁴ Its foundation, as the Dublin Statistical Society, in 1847, cannot be attributed to the influence of a British Association visit, for that body had not met in Dublin since 1835. Yet the founders certainly had the example of other societies before them and, according to Hancock, it was from the Statistical Section of the British Association that "the plan of this Society was originally taken."⁵

The early activities of the Society largely bear out Westergaard's contention that interest in social problems was the main force behind the work of such associations. The Statistical Society of London was founded with the object of "procuring, arranging and publishing 'Facts calculated to illustrate the Conditions and Prospects of Society'" and its initial Prospectus stated that "The Statistical Society will consider it to be the first and most essential rule of its conduct to exclude carefully all Opinions from its transactions and publications—to confine its attention rigorously to facts—and, as far as it may be found possible, to facts which

¹ Babbage: *The Exposition of 1851* (London, 1851), 2nd ed., p. 18. And see *Annals of the Royal Statistical Society*, 1834-1934 (London, 1934), chap. i.

² See T. S. Ashton: *Economic and Social Investigations in Manchester, 1833-1933*, (London, 1934).

³ Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society: *Centenary Volume, 1821-1921*, (Belfast, 1924), p. 23. See also Hume: *Learned Societies and Printing Clubs of the United Kingdom*, (London, 1847), p. 215. Hume says of this Society: "It promised at the time to be very useful, but it has never been conducted with spirit, and it is at present somewhat in abeyance."

⁴ See W. F. Willcox, *The Chronology of Statistical Societies*, American Statistical Association Journal, vol. xxix, Dec., 1934, p. 418.

⁵ Report of the Council at the Opening of the Sixth Session, 1852, p. 6.

can be stated numerically and arranged in tables."¹ From the outset the Dublin Statistical Society interpreted its objects much more broadly. The inclusion of 'Economical' as well as Statistical Science gave the new body a wide scope, but the Council appears to have considered the two subjects as complementary:—

"By our statistical inquiries we promote a taste for accuracy of observation and research; and by the development of Political Economy we teach the application of scientific principles to social questions."²

In practice, however, this balance was not too evenly maintained. The first paper ever read before the Society was one by Lawson "On the Connexion between Statistics and Political Economy," and the Transactions of the first Session included a "Notice of a Plan for the Systematic Collection of Irish Economic Statistics" produced by a Committee, the first of many appointed by the Society to study and report on specific problems. But on the other hand it must be recorded that those same Transactions include only one table which could reasonably be considered to deserve the adjective "statistical." Nor did the authors of papers confine themselves to detached investigations of social questions by the light of scientific principles; they were free with their views and suggestions for reform.

The young Society cannot be criticised for having taken this trend, however. It need not be stressed again that practical schemes of reform were the vital need of the moment, and the immediate success of the Society testifies to the interest which its proceedings created. The 81 original members had increased to 110 at the end of the first Session. The second Session closed with 146 members, the third with 196.

Early in 1848 it was proposed to form a "Howard Society" for "investigating the nature and effects of legal punishments" in Dublin, but at James Haughton's³ suggestion the scheme was abandoned as the aims of the projected society came within those of the Statistical Society, a point which gives some indication of the scope of its activities at the time. Yet despite, or perhaps because of, the wide range of its inquiries and the interest of the public in them

¹ *Annals of the Royal Statistical Society*, p. 22. This policy was revised in 1857.

² Report of the Council at the Opening of the Eighth Session, *Journal D.S.S.*, vol. i, pp. 5 and 6.

³ See Biographical Note below, p. 66.

'the Statistical' itself then came very near to being absorbed in a larger body, the Royal Dublin Society. In April, 1848, each of the two Societies appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the 'proposed terms of junction' and in June the Statistical Society's Council were preparing to submit a motion for amalgamation to the Annual Meeting. The plan, however, was never carried into effect as the Royal Dublin Society could not consent to a reduction of its Associates' subscription to the figure then charged by the Statistical Society, and the latter maintained its distinct existence, although it still met in the Royal Dublin Society's premises, as it had done since its third public meeting.

During the next few years the Society enjoyed increasing prestige and influence. In May, 1849, Honorary Membership was offered to John Stuart Mill, Nassau Senior, G. R. Porter, and John MacGregor, M.P.¹ and thus the Society could claim association with the foremost economists and statisticians of the day. At the same time its activities were expanding steadily. Early in 1849 the Trustees of the Barrington Bequest offered the Society the administration of this endowment for providing Lectures on Political Economy, for one year. This was the beginning of the connection between the Barrington Trust and the Statistical Society which has continued up to the present day, and it gave a valuable opportunity of furthering the objects of the Society by means of economic teaching throughout the country. The advertisement on the subject drawn up by the Council merits quotation in full, for it gives a clear summary of the purposes and operation of this interesting foundation:—

"REGULATIONS RESPECTING THE BARRINGTON LECTURES ON
POLITICAL ECONOMY.

"These lectureships have been established in pursuance of the bequest of the late John Barrington, Esq., a merchant of the City of Dublin. He bequeathed a sum of money in trust to Edward and Richard Barrington, Esqs., to be invested in public securities; the interest arising from which to be applied to the payment of a fit and proper person or persons,

¹ G. R. Porter (1792-1852) was joint secretary of the Board of Trade and head of its Statistical Department, set up in 1833. He was also one of the founders of the Statistical Society of London.

John MacGregor (1797-1857) was also associated with the Board of Trade before he entered Parliament, and was the author of *Commercial Statistics: a Digest of the Productive Resources and Commercial Legislation of All Nations*.

See *Dictionary of National Biography*, vols. xxxv and xlvi.

duly qualified to give lectures on Political Economy in its most extended and useful sense, 'but particularly as relates to the conduct and duty of people to one another'.

"He directed that the lectures should be given in the various towns and villages in Ireland, without distinction, and as often as might be; and that a small admittance sum, but not to exceed one shilling in any case, might be required to bear the expense of the room, etc., and he left his trustees to follow up his plan and wishes in the way they thought best for the purpose with means so small; and gave them also power to appoint trustees for the purpose, in case they should not be able to act themselves individually.

"The Trustees have authorized the Council of the Dublin Statistical Society to appoint one or more lecturers, to be called BARRINGTON LECTURERS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY to hold their appointments until the 5th May, 1850.

"The lecturer, or some of the lecturers, are to give at least four lectures in Dublin, and at least twenty-four lectures in not less than four of the towns or villages of Ireland.

"Each lecturer shall be required to publish an abstract of all his proposed lectures to the Council, to be submitted by the Council to the Trustees for their approval; and no lecturer is to deliver any lecture the abstract of which has been disapproved by the Council or by the Trustees.

"Every lecturer must abstain in his lectures from all allusions to party politics or religious polemics.

"Each lecturer must furnish to the Council an account of the number of lectures delivered by him, with a statement that all his lectures have been in conformity with the terms of the bequest and the regulations of the Council on the subject.

"No lecturer shall be entitled to receive any remuneration for his services unless three members of the Council, appointed for the purpose, shall forward to the Trustees the account and statement of the lecturer, with a certificate of their approval of the same.

"The interest of the trust fund to be paid to the lecturers on obtaining certificates, in such proportions as the Council shall determine, is £120 in all." The Council proposed to appoint four lecturers "so that if the duties are equally distributed, each lecturer will have to give one lecture in Dublin, and six in some provincial town, and his salary shall be at least £30."

The first four lecturers were James A. Lawson, who acted by invitation, T. W. Moffett, D. Caulfield Heron and W. E.

Hearn. After their appointment applications for courses of lectures were invited from literary societies and similar bodies throughout the country, these to be responsible for the local arrangements. This system met with the approval of the trustees and was continued, with only slight variations, down to 1860.

Another useful undertaking in this period was the commencement of the formation of a statistical library. On 6th September, 1850, the Council resolved "That the books that have been presented to the Society, and such books as shall hereafter be presented to or deposited with the Society, be placed under the care of Mr. Richard D. Webb, as Librarian, to be by him lent to the members, or to such other trustworthy persons as he may approve of; and that the Librarian keep a list of the books presented to, or deposited with, the Society, and a report of the persons to whom they are lent, with the dates of their being issued and returned." They added a request that members might deposit their own copies of any rare or valuable works on Political Economy or Statistics for the benefit of the authors of papers. Difficulties of accommodation, however, prevented any considerable development of the Library scheme at this stage.

Not only in instruction, but also in reform, the Society was becoming more influential. A proposal brought forward by Hancock in December, 1848, that "the amendment of the law" should be included amongst the objects was rejected by the Council, but nevertheless the proceedings of the Society were not without effect in this regard. In the Second Session Hancock gave several papers on the legal impediments to the transfer of land and at the same time a Committee was appointed to inquire into the question. Longfield and Hancock, who were members of this Committee, were subsequently called, along with Lawson, to give evidence before a Parliamentary Committee whose inquiries led up to the passing of the Encumbered Estates Act of 1849.

Up to this time the method of appointing Committees for investigating social questions in detail had been little used; few of the members could have had time for this work. The Statistical Society did not follow the method of employing paid investigators, but there was a new departure in this regard in November 1850, when some of the members set up the "Society for Promoting Scientific Inquiries into Social Reform," commonly known as the Social Inquiry Society. According to the first report of its Council it had objects similar to those of the Statistical Society, but sought

to attain them in a different way. "In the Statistical Society the subscription is uniform and moderate in amount, the subjects of the papers read at the meetings of the Society are selected by the authors, and the authors volunteer their services, and are unpaid.

"In the Social Inquiry Society, on the other hand, large subscriptions are sought for; one subscription last year amounted to £25, there were several of £5, and the lowest or ordinary subscription amounts to double the subscription to the Statistical Society; the subjects and authors are both selected by the Council, and the authors are paid for their reports.

"In consequence of these differences in the means used, the Council of the Social Inquiry Society are enabled to obtain reports on complicated and difficult investigations, entirely beyond the reach of the voluntary and unpaid exertions of individual inquirers in the Statistical Society."¹

Between 1850 and 1855 the Social Inquiry Society published eight reports² paying £20 to the author of each. For the most part the reports dealt, not directly with social conditions, but with the state of the law as affecting those conditions. Reformist rather than merely descriptive in character, they all included suggestions for the amendment of existing laws or the introduction of new ones, and in some cases, such as Lawson's report on the law with respect to wills, led to the introduction of legislation subsequently.

¹ Social Inquiry Society: Report of the Council read at the Annual Meeting, 3 November, 1851, pp. 7-8.

² See Index below.

CHAPTER II.

CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT, 1850-1862

By the end of its third session, the Dublin Statistical Society had become a flourishing and very active body. It continued to grow and prosper throughout the next decade and beyond, but there were many changes in its organisation and activities, and it is with its internal affairs that the historian must chiefly be concerned at this stage.

Evidence of public interest in the Society is provided by the continued growth of membership, but apparently the enthusiasm of new recruits was not always long maintained for in their Report at the Conclusion of the Third Session the Council complained that many subscriptions remained unpaid and announced their decision to limit the number of members to 200 on this account, "with the understanding that, if the number of candidates for admission should continue to exceed the number of vacancies caused by the rejection of members for non-payment, the limit of the number of members shall be raised from time to time." This state of affairs did in fact continue to exist, so that the restriction on the number of members was lifted in 1856. A further indication of the healthy condition of the Society at the time is that it proved necessary, in the same year, to hold an extra meeting "owing to the number of papers brought forward for reading before the Society being so great that it seemed impossible to get through them all at the ordinary meetings."

At the same time there was a further widening of the Society's influence and its example came to be followed in other parts of the country. After his appointment to the Chair of Jurisprudence and Political Economy in the newly founded Queen's College, Belfast, Hancock set up, in December 1851, the Belfast Social Inquiry Society, with objects similar to, but somewhat wider than those of its Dublin predecessor. It was arranged that members of the new northern Society be admitted to the Dublin one without payment of entrance fee, and members of each Society received the publications of the other.

In June, 1852, a proposal came from Cork "suggesting the formation in that city of a Vital and Economical Statistical Society as a branch of the Dublin Statistical Society." The Council requested James Haughton "to examine into the expediency of entering into the proposed arrangement," but there is no record of his report and apparently the proposal came to nothing.¹

In the smaller towns, where adequate support for a separate Statistical Society would naturally not be forthcoming, the Barrington Lectures continued to develop interest in economic matters. There were constant reports of the popularity of the lectures and the demand for courses continually exceeded the number which could be given. Generally the lectures were given under the auspices of a local Literary Society or Mechanics' Institute; in 1852, Cliffe Leslie, who had just given two papers on the "State of Mechanics' Institutions" proposed that such bodies should be taken into association as 'Corresponding Societies,' under regulations similar to those for Corresponding Members, but also providing for an exchange of publications. The Council adopted this suggestion in August, 1852, and twenty-four such Corresponding Societies were immediately elected.

One effect of this new arrangement was to make the management of the Barrington Lectures considerably easier, but the next annual Report of the Council showed that it had wider purposes also:—

"By this arrangement we hope to extend the usefulness of the Society, by making its objects and publications more generally known throughout Ireland. We hope also, by the publications which we shall receive in exchange, to collect perfect statistics as to the state and proceedings of the literary and scientific societies and mechanics' institutes in Ireland, and thus to carry out the suggestion of Mr. Cliffe Leslie by laying the foundation for a union amongst these bodies at some future period, on a plan similar to that which has been proposed by Mr. Harry Chester, and carried out by the Society of Arts in England."²

While the Society was thus developing its position inside Ireland, it was also forging new links with the rest of the

¹ There did exist a Cork Economical Society, founded in 1819, but this was purely a Tradesman's Friendly Society, and was in no way connected with the project mentioned here.

² Report of the Council at the opening of the Sixth Session, 15 Nov., 1852, p. 6. On Chester's Union of Mechanics Institutions see Sir Henry Trueman Wood: *History of the Royal Society of Arts* (London, 1913), pp. 369 *et seq.*

world. A number of English and Continental Associations entered into correspondence or exchanged publications with it—the Society of Arts and the Law Amendment Society in 1853, the Société Belge d'Économie Politique in 1856 and “the Society of Political Economists at Paris” in 1857. In 1851 the Director of Statistics of the United States, J. C. G. Kennedy, had asked the help of the Council towards securing greater uniformity in ‘the statistical researches of different governments’ whilst in 1856 the French Consul in Dublin wrote on behalf of his Ambassador in London “inquiring into the organisation and condition of the Dublin Statistical Society.”

Another development of some significance was the increasing part taken by members in the numerous congresses and meetings of the period. The Council had suggested the desirability of members attending and making contributions to the Statistical Section of the British Association as early as 1848; Hancock himself was the first of our members to read a paper before that body, at its Edinburgh meeting in 1850, but others shortly followed his example. When the first International Statistical Congress, held at Brussels in 1853, was projected, the Council planned to have the Society adequately represented.¹ In 1852 a deputation was sent to the ‘Conference on the Commercial Code for the Three Kingdoms’ and in 1856, Henry Dix Hutton attended the Brussels Free Trade Congress and International Association for Customs Reform and gave a report of its proceedings to the Council.

The ordinary transactions of the Society during these years retained their predominantly social character, even though Sir Robert Kane, addressing the Society in 1851, had appealed for a fuller development of its statistical side, and the Council at the same time had proposed that investigations might be made ‘into the fluctuations in wages and in the prices of food and clothing, throughout Ireland,’ somewhat after the manner of the early surveys of the Manchester Statistical Society². The papers of the period faithfully reflect the importance of current social and economic events—the land question retains its perennial interest, but the economic consequences of the Crimean war and the gold discoveries in California and Australia receive their full share of attention.

The work of the society and the scope of its inquiries were,

¹ See Report of the Council read at the Annual Meeting, 19th Nov., 1851, p. 18.

² Ibid, p. 19. See Ashton: *Economic and Social Investigations in Manchester, 1833–1933*, pp. 13 *et seq.*

however, strongly affected by important changes in organisation which took place in 1855. In March of that year the Social Inquiry Society was merged into the Dublin Statistical Society, which took over its funds and placed them in a specially established “Social Inquiry Fund” to be used for conducting scientific inquiries into social reform. The objects of the Statistical Society were correspondingly enlarged and its business became “the promotion of the study of Statistics, Political Economy and Jurisprudence.” As a result of these changes many papers on the amendment of the law were brought before the Society in the next few years, as well as others on sanitary conditions and penology. The Society could now be said to deal with social science in the widest sense, and indeed when Lord Brougham’s National Association for the Promotion of Social Science was inaugurated at Birmingham in 1857, the Council pointed out that “the sphere of the labours of the National Association . . . corresponds in essential particulars to that which was adopted by our Society when the Social Inquiry Society was merged in it.”¹

The Council were of the opinion that the enlargement of its objects had proved beneficial to the Society, and certainly many valuable papers were read and inquiries conducted during the next few years. A considerable development of the system of inquiries by special Committees was a natural result of the amalgamation, but the visit of the British Association to Dublin in 1857 also had some influence in this respect. A number of such Committees were formed under the section of Statistics and Economic Science (as it had then become), and the members of our Society took an active part in them, as well as in the organising work and proceedings of the Section. The visit of the Association in fact had a double effect in stimulating the interest of members of the Dublin Statistical Society in social investigations and stimulating the interest of the public in the Society.

It is interesting to consider the various questions which were examined in this way and the type of reforms which the Society sought. Decimal currency was one subject which received considerable attention and a petition in favour of it was presented to the House of Commons by W. Pollard Urquhart, in 1855, signed by Archbishop Whately and some

¹ Report of the Council at the Opening of the Eleventh Session, *Journal D.S.S.*, vol. ii, p. 141. See also the Report at the opening of 14th Session, *Journal D.S.S.*, vol. iii, p. 4.

The Dublin Statistical Society became a Corporate Member of the National Association for Promotion of Social Science in 1858.

of the most influential members of the Society. Frequent efforts were made to obtain greater security for depositors in charitable savings banks, which were then very poorly supervised and managed, and the Society gave early and strong support to plans for post-office savings banks. Defects in the Poor Laws, particularly the rearing of children in workhouses, were often discussed and a special inquiry into the history and principles of the Irish Poor Law was instituted in 1860. But perhaps the most important of the inquiries of this period was that concerning registration of marriages, births and deaths. Such registration was not made compulsory in Ireland until 1863, and many social inquiries were gravely hindered in consequence. The Statistical Society was not slow to point this out, and attention was drawn to the need for registration in the report of one of its Committees, appointed in 1858.

Shortly before the amalgamation with the Social Inquiry Society was carried out, another small, but significant, change in arrangements was made. During the first seven sessions the Society had adopted the plan of publishing each paper in pamphlet form, separately paged, but title pages were issued so that these could be collected into volumes of 'Transactions.' This proved, as the Council stated in 1855, 'very unfavourable to the preservation of the papers.' So in January of that year the Society commenced the publication of papers 'at stated periods and collectively' in the form of a Journal. The present scarcity of the early volumes of Transactions, and the advantages for research in having proceedings collected in a continuous series of Journals, indicate the wisdom and importance of the change.

The development of the Society also brought about noteworthy changes in the arrangements for meetings. The Statistical Society never possessed its own premises and for ten years continued to meet in those of the Royal Dublin Society.¹ At first, accommodation was provided not only for the meetings themselves, but also for giving refreshments afterwards, but the Royal Dublin Society refused to allow this after 1855. Apparently this had an adverse effect on the Statistical Society, the members not being entirely satisfied with purely intellectual fare. The Council therefore sought renewal of the privilege in 1857, making the striking claim that they "deemed it essential" if Irish statisticians were to "take their place creditably in the ranks of the promoters of social inquiries throughout the Empire." This,

¹ See above, p. 6.

however, did not seem to impress the Royal Dublin Society, which failed to grant the desired concession.¹

It would be unnecessary to make any mention of this storm in a teacup were it not for the fact that it was the prelude to an important change in the relations between the two bodies. Early in 1858 the Royal Dublin Society adopted proposals for bringing the various Scientific Societies in Dublin into union with it. Societies entering the Union were to hold their meetings on the same evening as the Royal Dublin Society, and on its premises, and all the Societies were to adjourn afterwards to a common refreshment room. Members of the Royal Dublin Society were to have the privilege of joining Associated Societies without entrance fee and on payment of half subscription, whilst those belonging to Associated Societies received certain privileges of membership of the Royal Dublin Society. Both classes of members were to have the privilege of attending any or all of the evening meetings.

When these regulations were completed by the Royal Dublin Society the Council of the Statistical Society at once authorised the Secretaries to apply for its admission "into a participation of the benefits so proposed to be conferred."² The association between the two Societies was approved of by both and carried into effect in June 1858. Some alterations in the laws of the Statistical Society were necessary, and as a considerable number of members enjoyed the privilege of reduced subscriptions in virtue of their belonging to the Royal Dublin Society, the annual subscription was raised to £1 in order to maintain a secure financial position. The actual result was an immediate and considerable improvement in the Society's finances, and indeed the early results of the association with the Royal Dublin Society seem to have been favourable in every direction; the Reports of the Council in 1859 and 1860 stress the benefits derived from it.

In the meantime changes were also occurring in another branch of the Society's activities—the management of the Barrington Trust. In May, 1859, the Council addressed a letter of instructions to the lecturers, which is worth reproduction in part for the light it throws on the purpose and conduct of the lectures at the time:—

¹ The Council's letter and the Royal Dublin Society's reply are reproduced in full in S. Shannon Millin's *Historical Memoirs*, pp. 55-6.

² Minutes of Council Meeting, April 6th, 1858.

“ Sir,

We are directed by the Council of the Dublin Statistical Society to state for your guidance the course of proceeding with regard to your Lectures which the Council would wish you to adopt . . . It is right that you should know that the circumstance which led Mr. Barrington to found the Lectureship was a combination of workmen against the firm of which he was a member. He was struck with the ignorance of their own true interests which the workmen displayed, and he thought if they had been better informed they would not have entered into unwise Combinations to regulate Wages.

The Council observe that recently there have been in Ireland several cases of Combinations against machinery; for example, that of the agricultural labourers against reaping machines in the County of Kilkenny, of the shoe-makers and tailors against sewing machines, and of the small against the large shopkeepers in Dublin, and of the weavers against power looms at Lurgan.

Keeping in view, therefore, the circumstances under which the Barrington Lectureship was founded, and the intention of the founder, the Council would wish each Lecturer to devote one lecture at least to the subject of combinations amongst workmen—the Lecture to be based on ascertained facts and applications of principle to them. The Lecturer should consider not only the conduct of the workmen, but also the means by which the partial suffering incidental to industrial progress may be diminished.

As to the other Lectures the Council think it desirable that the Lecturer should select practical questions in illustration of general principle rather than treat of the principles of Political Economy in the abstract. Such questions as Emigration, the effects of the Discovery of Gold: the Ship-owners' complaints as to Navigation Laws, the Paper Duties, and other unwise modes of raising a revenue, would afford opportunities of illustrating some of the chief principles of Political Economy. Such illustrations would, in the opinion of the Council, be more attractive than abstract expositions of the elementary parts of the Science.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

W. Neilson Hancock	} Hon. Secs.” ¹
J. E. Cairnes	
Henry Dix Hutton	

¹ *Minutes of Council Meeting*, 17th May, 1859. Reproduced in *Historical Memoirs*, pp. 45-6.

[To face page 16.]



JOHN BARRINGTON,
1800-1836.

FOUNDER OF THE BARRINGTON LECTURESHIP.

At the time when these instructions were issued, the original plan of appointing a number of Lecturers (usually four) each year, by simple selection, was still being followed. In May, 1860, however, the Council discussed the future of the Lectureships at length with the Trustee and a new plan for administering the Trust was adopted. Under this, there was to be only one Lecturer, elected for a period of three years. He was to deliver four courses of Lectures, three in provincial towns and one in Dublin, and receive a salary of £120 per annum. In addition, the arrangements for appointing the Lecturer were made considerably more elaborate. Each candidate was required to read before the Council a lecture of his own composition and subsequently to lecture extempore, at one day's notice, on a subject chosen by them. These somewhat nerve-racking contests were open to the public as well as to members of the Society; the first was held in the Dublin Athenæum, Anglesea Street, in May, 1861, and resulted in the selection of Andrew M. Porter, of Queen's College, Belfast, a barrister. This method of appointing Lecturers was continued until 1870, although after the first occasion the extempore lecture was replaced by an oral examination.

Before these arrangements were completed, another important topic began to engage the attention of the Council—the question of a visit to Dublin by the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. The suggestion that an invitation should be sent to the Association was first made by Joseph Napier, the former Lord Chancellor of Ireland, who had been President of the Department of Jurisprudence when the Association met in Liverpool in 1858. The Council took the view that there would not be sufficient time to organise support for an invitation to meet in Dublin in 1861, and intended instead to prepare one for 1862. The Royal Dublin Society, however, forestalled them by inviting the Social Science Congress (as the Association was often called) to Dublin in 1861, and its meeting was held there in August of that year. The Statistical Society offered its fullest co-operation to the Royal Dublin Society to ensure the success of the meeting, and its members took a prominent part in the work of the Congress. So great was the influence of this meeting on the organisation of the Statistical Society, that it seems necessary to preface an account of it by some indication of the nature and objects of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science.

The Association was somewhat similar in form to the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It was divided

into a number of departments, at this time six—Jurisprudence, Education, Reformatories, Public Health, Social Economy, and Trade and International Law. The Association met annually in various towns throughout the United Kingdom and each Department held separate meetings, with its own President, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries. The permanent officers included some of the principal jurists and economists of the day and a remarkable number of Members of Parliament, which added greatly to the influence of the Association.

The idea behind the organisation was that society was developed according to fixed and ascertainable principles or laws "and that the best method of applying those principles for the production of human happiness is a fit subject for inquiry."¹ This was accompanied by a strong belief in the unity of the social sciences, which accounted for the wide scope of the Association. From the outset the activities of the 'Social Science Congress' were avowedly reformist. The jurisprudence section achieved much in simplification and amendment of the law; in economic matters purely abstract inquiries were avoided and "a union between the moral and economical sciences" sought, while in other departments also practical work was the main concern. Another important aspect of the Association was the encouragement it gave to the employment of women, and the large part which they were allowed to take in its activities. The Society for Promoting the Industrial Employment of Women, the Ladies' Sanitary Association and the Workhouse Visiting Society were all formed in connection with it.

Such was the character of the Congress which met in Dublin, continuing in session for a week, under the presidency of Lord Brougham, to hear more than 170 papers and addresses whose authors included such distinguished persons as Michel Chevalier, Florence Nightingale and Edwin Chadwick. Members of the Statistical Society were well to the fore in the proceedings—Joseph Napier was again President of the Jurisprudence Department, Thomas O'Hagan, then Attorney-General, of the Punishment and Reformation Department, and Mountifort Longfield of the Department of Social Economy, whilst Hancock and John Lentaigne acted as Local Secretaries along with J. F. Waller of the Royal Dublin Society. The members of the Association heard more than twenty papers from their colleagues in the Statistical Society,

¹ G. W. Hastings: Introduction to the *Transactions of the National Association for Promotion of Social Science*, 1861, p. xvii.

and were entertained by them at a *Conversazione* held in Sir Robert Kane's Museum of Irish Industry.

So large and important an assembly was bound to have a very considerable influence; no wonder that the Council of the Statistical Society declared in their next Report that the meeting "must be regarded as the commencement in Ireland of a period when subjects of social interest will henceforward receive greater attention than hitherto had been generally given to them."¹ The visit of the Social Science Congress not only stirred local interest in the subjects with which it dealt, but also set an example which the Dublin Statistical Society was not slow to follow. At the Council meeting on 1st October, 1861, "Dr. Hancock submitted a proposal for modifying the arrangements of the Statistical Society so as to provide for the more efficient pursuit of the distinct branches of Social Science with which the National Association dealt. The modification to consist in the appointment of Secretaries and a Committee for each Department and adopting the name of the Dublin Statistical and Social Inquiry Society. He threw the proposal out for the consideration of members of Council and announced his intention of bringing forward a complete plan at the next meeting of Council." A Committee was appointed to consider these proposals and brought in a report, the main recommendations of which were the division of the Society into three departments and the admission of ladies as Associates, this latter chiefly because branches of the three ladies' societies connected with the National Association had been formed in Dublin after its visit. A proposal for the formation of a proper statistical library was also included in the report.

These recommendations were accepted in principle by the Council, the Committee prepared revised laws incorporating the changes, and a motion to adopt these was carried unanimously at an Extraordinary Meeting held on 21st February, 1862. The principal changes were:—

1. The extension of the objects of the Society to all questions of Social Science.
2. The change of the name of the Society to that of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.
3. The admission of Ladies, and residents beyond fifteen miles from Dublin, as associates, at ten shillings subscription.

¹ Report of the Council at the Opening of the Fifteenth Session, *Journal D.S.S.*, vol. iii, p. 129.

4. The division of the Society's business into three departments :—
 - I.—Jurisprudence and Amendment of the Law, including the subject of Punishment and the Reformation of Criminals.
 - II.—Social Science, including Education ; Political Economy, including the principles of Trade and Commerce.
 - III.—Public Health and Sanitary Reform.
5. The appointment of a Member of Council, with some members of the Society associated, to take charge of each department.
6. The number of meetings of the Society to be increased from seven to twelve in each session."

These changes were to take effect from the termination of the session 1861-62.¹

The re-organisation of the Society necessitated a revision of its relationship with the Royal Dublin Society. The association with that body had not, for some years, proved wholly satisfactory. In 1860 the Royal Dublin Society had proposed to discontinue the common refreshment scheme, owing to its cost and complaints of the inconvenience caused by several societies meeting on the same night so that members could only hear the papers in one. The Council of the Statistical Society fully agreed that the arrangements were inconvenient, but insisted on the need for them to have a *Conversazione* with refreshments after meetings and reiterated their former claim for a wholly separate meeting on the Royal Dublin Society's premises. Again, the Royal Dublin Society could not see their way to meeting this claim and the old arrangements were continued for the time being. With the proposed alteration in the constitution of the Statistical Society it became necessary to seek further facilities from its associated Society—permission to hold an increased number of meetings, to admit ladies, and to meet on different nights from the Royal Dublin Society was required, as well as accommodation on the latter's premises for the proposed Statistical Library. Negotiations with the Royal Dublin Society to obtain these concessions failed to produce any satisfactory result, but the Council decided to go forward with the new arrangements even though it should

¹ Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting, 21st February, 1862. Reproduced in *Historical Memoirs*, p. 61.

involve seeking an entirely new place of meeting. Accordingly, the Secretaries wrote to the Royal Dublin Society on 26th March, 1862 :—

"The Council desire us to express their regret that it does not appear to suit the arrangements of the Royal Dublin Society to afford the increased accommodation required by this Society in order that it may keep pace with the increasing development and wider application of Social Science in Ireland, and that we are therefore compelled to make arrangements for the future meetings of the Society elsewhere than on the premises of the Royal Dublin Society and to intimate to the Council of the Royal Dublin Society the dissolution of the union with it of the Statistical Society."¹

Thus in 1862 the "Dublin Statistical Society, in Association with the Royal Dublin Society" became the "Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland."

¹ See also "Amendment of Laws," *Historical Memoirs*, pp. 57-60.

CHAPTER III.

THE SOCIETY IN ITS PRIME, 1862-1889

RE-NAMED and reorganised, the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland continued its career under the most favourable auspices. The first years after the adoption of the new laws were amongst the most prosperous and successful which the Society ever enjoyed. There was a rapid increase in numbers—at the commencement of the session 1864-65 the Society had 261 ordinary members and 22 associates. Attendances at meetings were constantly large and even for the increased number of meetings there was a ready supply of papers. Any ordinary meeting was certain to produce an audience of about eighty, while the Inaugural Meetings each session were particularly large and distinguished affairs—sufficiently distinguished to merit the attendance of the Lord Lieutenant and his suite. The first Inaugural Meeting after the reorganisation was attended by 59 members and 115 visitors, of whom 59 were ladies; in 1869 the total attendance at the Annual Meeting had swelled to 338. A few years earlier, in 1864, the Council had passed a vote of thanks to the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway for providing a special train after the Inaugural Meeting.

By comparison with the far-reaching changes of the preceding few years, the alterations in the internal affairs of the Society during this period were slight. The Society now met regularly in the Friends' Institute, 35 Molesworth Street, where accommodation for its books was also obtained. The departmental system was put into operation, two members being appointed as Secretaries to each department; in 1862, and again in 1864, lists of 'Topics for Investigation and Discussion' in each department were prepared, distributed to members and printed in the Journal. The contacts of the Society were extended by the election of foreign corresponding members, including the consuls of France, Italy and the United States then resident in Dublin. A number of other Societies were taken into correspondence, such as the American Geographical and Statistical Society, and the American Association for the Promotion of Social Science.

The Society continued to send representatives to the principal conferences and meetings; noteworthy in this respect was the meeting of the Social Science Congress at Belfast in 1867, where a number of Statistical members read papers.

One important change did occur at this time—in the tenure of the Presidency. That office had been held by Archbishop Whately from the day of the foundation until his death in 1863, but his successor, Judge Longfield, "expressed his wish that the office of President should only be for a term of years and not for life." Since that time no President has held office for more than five years.

In regard to the work of the Society, the claim made by the Council at the opening of the Session 1863-64 was not unjustified:—"Its early purposes are diligently worked out; in new paths of usefulness energy is exerted." All three departments secured a series of useful papers and the scope of the Society was certainly much widened, but a certain dominance of the Jurisprudence department begins to become noticeable after a time. At the outset, however, contributions were remarkably varied.

In the late 'fifties and early 'sixties a succession of poor harvests threatened to negative the recovery which had been achieved since the Famine, and this state of affairs gave rise to an interesting group of papers in which the statistical evidence of the country's economic condition was variously interpreted. The first, read in May, 1862, was Denis Caulfield Heron's "Historical Statistics of Ireland." Heron's contention was that there had been a steady and prolonged decline in the condition of the country, attributable to defects in the land system. This view was strongly opposed by Randal McDonnell, who challenged Heron's figures and conclusions in a paper entitled "Statistics of Irish Prosperity." The question was raised again in the following year when John Kells Ingram opened the Seventeenth Session with an Address containing "Considerations on the State of Ireland." In this he took a favourable view of emigration, but warned that it would not solve the difficulties of Ireland, especially in view of agricultural competition from the New World. To meet the situation he advocated legislation to provide "perfect security for capital employed in agriculture" and an assimilation of the Irish to the English poor-laws so that the Irish peasants would not be compelled, through fear of the work-house, to resist consolidation of their holdings. With these adjustments, he considered that the future prosperity of the country could be secured.

In the same year Hancock presented an official report to the Lord Lieutenant "On the Supposed Progressive Decline of Irish Prosperity" in which he declared that "All the statistics I have examined appear to me to refute the theory of progressive decline." But Heron was not convinced and reiterated his views in a later paper on 'Ireland in 1864,' condemning the emigration, which Ingram thought natural and useful, as a symptom of serious and long-standing evils in social organisation.

This whole controversy was bound up with the land question, which continued to receive its full share of attention. While questions of land transfer and registration of title were still treated in a number of papers, the fact that the working of the Landed Estates Court had not ended agricultural distress seems to have been recognised in an increasing discussion of security of tenure and the propriety or otherwise of a general recognition of tenant-right.

In February, 1866, at the instigation of Jonathan Pim, the Council obtained from Randal McDonnell a 'Report on the Impediments to express Contracts as to the Occupation of Land in Ireland.' This is noteworthy in that it represented a revival of the old 'Social Inquiry' system of obtaining paid reports on special questions from qualified investigators. The system, which had been in abeyance for some years, now came into prominence again, and this was the first of a number of such reports obtained by the Council.

Several new and important social questions also found a place in the discussions of the Society at this time. One which occupied much attention from 1865 to 1870 was railway reform. The Railway Regulation Act of 1844 gave the Government the power to purchase any railway after the lapse of 21 years from the passing of its special Act. For more than a decade from 1865 there was strong agitation, in and out of Parliament, for the exercise of this power in the case of Irish railways. The ownership of Irish lines was very widely diffused and there were many complaints of excessive rates and fares and inefficient operation, which it was felt could be remedied by consolidation under State ownership, if not State management. The Society heard a number of papers on this subject and in general their readers, like the great majority of Irishmen at the time, were strongly in favour of State purchase in some form.¹

A study of the Proceedings of this period reveals much

¹ For a full account of this agitation, and the Statistical Society's part in it, see Conroy: *A History of Railways in Ireland* (London, 1928), chapter v.

free and favourable discussion of social changes which it is now customary to regard as unheard of until much more recent days. The first paper which this Society ever had from a lady was read by Mrs. Charlotte Stoker on 13th May, 1863; she treated of the "Necessity for a State Provision for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Ireland." In 1866 Professor Arthur Houston spoke strongly in favour of "Extension of the Field for Employment of Women" but even in 1862 James A. Lawson was able to inform members that the newly formed "Society for the Employment of Educated Women"¹ had taught useful trades to 232 pupils and found employment for 86 of them. In 1867, Alfred Webb, an active member who had undertaken the work of Librarian to the Society, read a paper advocating the introduction of women's franchise.

The praiseworthy movement for improvement in housing conditions in towns was helped in Ireland by the advocacy of the Statistical Society. In 1864 and 1865 Dr. E. D. Mapother, afterwards Dublin's Medical Officer of Health, read a series of three papers on sanitary conditions in towns, which were not without influence in securing the passage of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

Nor was this the only case in which the Society might claim that its work had produced practical results. In 1860 a paper by Hancock on the long hours worked by Journeymen Bakers attracted so much public attention that a special commission was appointed by the government to investigate the question, and an Act of 1863 limited hours of work and regulated conditions in bakehouses. Two Acts of 1865 could be traced to ideas which were first developed at Statistical Society meetings—the Record of Title Act, based on the plan set forth by Sir Robert Torrens, Registrar-General of South Australia, in a paper read in 1863, and the Land Debenture Act, which followed the lines of Mountifort Longfield's "Proposal for an Act to authorize the issue of Land Debentures in connexion with Sales made by the Landed Estates Court," made to the Society in 1861. And when the Land Act of 1870 was passed, the Society could at least claim that in papers and reports it had earnestly sought a solution of the land problem throughout the twenty-three years of its existence, and that one of its original members, "Honest Hugh Law," had helped in the drafting of the Act.

During the eighteen-seventies came the first faint hint of a weakening in the position of the Society. Its period of

¹ See above, pp. 18 and 19.

rapid development was past, but it still held the ground which it had gained. The Inaugural meetings were no longer such notable occasions as they had been in the sixties, and the flow of new members was neither so large nor so regular, but the affairs of the Society remained on a comfortably sound basis, and its work continued with undiminished vigour. Some few changes in arrangements were made, chief amongst them the reorganisation of the Barrington Lectures. Attendances at these had been diminishing for some years under the old system, a fact which the Council attributed to the growth of local societies providing lectures of their own. Accordingly in 1870 the scope of the Lectures was widened to increase their popularity and they became known as the "Barrington Lectures on Social Science." At the same time the Council reverted to the old method of selecting two lecturers annually.

A completely new plan was adopted in 1873, when the lectures were turned into teaching lectures with examinations and prizes awarded by local committees. The lecturers were selected by the local committees, and approved of by the Barrington Lecture Committee of the Council. They were divided into two classes, (i) University prizemen in Political Economy, (ii) Schoolmasters who, having passed a qualifying examination, obtained a certificate to teach Political Economy from the Barrington Lecture Committee.¹ On the average about sixty students received instruction in this way each year; the scheme remained in force for some twenty years.

At this same time, the Council undertook another educational duty, assisting the Inspector of Army Schools in examining soldiers and soldiers' children in military schools for the Society of Arts, but this does not appear to have continued for long.

The chief interest of this period, however, is in the papers read before and reports prepared for the Society. While a number of papers on the land question continued to be presented after 1870, the change in their emphasis is noteworthy for they plainly show an increasing interest in peasant proprietorship. G. Shaw Lefevre, M.P., then President of the Statistical Society of London and Chairman of a Select Committee of the House of Commons on the working of the Bright clauses of the Land Act of 1870, visited Dublin in 1877 to investigate questions of land purchase, and attended

¹ This plan was derived from a similar change made at this time in the management of the Science lectures conducted by the Science and Art Department. See Reports of the Council, *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, volume vi, pp. 277 and 366.

meetings of the Society to hear papers on the subject. Evidence of continued interest is given by such contributions as J. H. Edge's "The Bright Clauses of the Irish Land Act" (1880), Henry Dix Hutton's "Registration of Title Indispensable for Peasant Proprietors" (1881), and R. R. Cherry's "Considerations as to an extended Scheme of Land Purchase" (1886). This last came after the passage of the Land Purchase Act of 1885, whose promoter, Lord Ashbourne, was a Vice-President and former Secretary of the Society.

In more general economic and statistical matters what are perhaps some of the most important papers ever read before the Society appear in the Journals for these years. Amongst them can be found a number of interesting indications of the changes in economic thought which were occurring as the influence of the Classical School declined. In his Address at the opening of the Session 1871-72, Lawson declared that "*Laissez-faire* was not very long ago the doctrine of economists . . . but the current has now set in the opposite direction" and he concluded with a warning lest the new doctrine should be pressed too far. Its strength at that time, however, was not great, and there can have been very few who were prepared to go so far as did Mountfort Longfield in 1872 when he wrote his paper "On the Limits of State Interference with the Distribution of Wealth, in applying Taxation to the assistance of the Public," proposing social legislation which is advanced even by modern standards.¹

The proceedings of the Society in the 'seventies also reflect the growth of criticism of the Free Trade policy, as the severe agricultural depression resulting from American competition developed. In 1878, the members heard Joseph T. Pim ask "Is our Commercial Depression due to Free Trade, and would it be relieved by Limited Protection?" and in the next year one of the Barrington Lecturers, J. Moylan, submitted a paper on the "Impolicy of a Revival of Protection as a Remedy for the Present Depression." It would appear that the Society in general was still convinced of the desirability of Free Trade.

But while the exponents of the science remained faithful to its principles, public opinion, not merely in Ireland or England but almost all over Europe, was becoming increasingly contemptuous of orthodox Political Economy. There was no longer the almost unquestioning belief in the validity and practical value of its doctrines which had prevailed widely at the time when the Statistical Society was founded. Nor was

¹ For a full discussion of this remarkable paper, see the Biographical Note on Longfield below, pp. 52 and 53.

this feeling of contempt confined to those who knew, not Political Economy itself, but the generalisations and shibboleths which had emerged from it, through time, as maxims for policy and seemed to produce more misery than prosperity. Men of science in other fields also were beginning to suggest that Political Economy was sterile and unscientific in character.

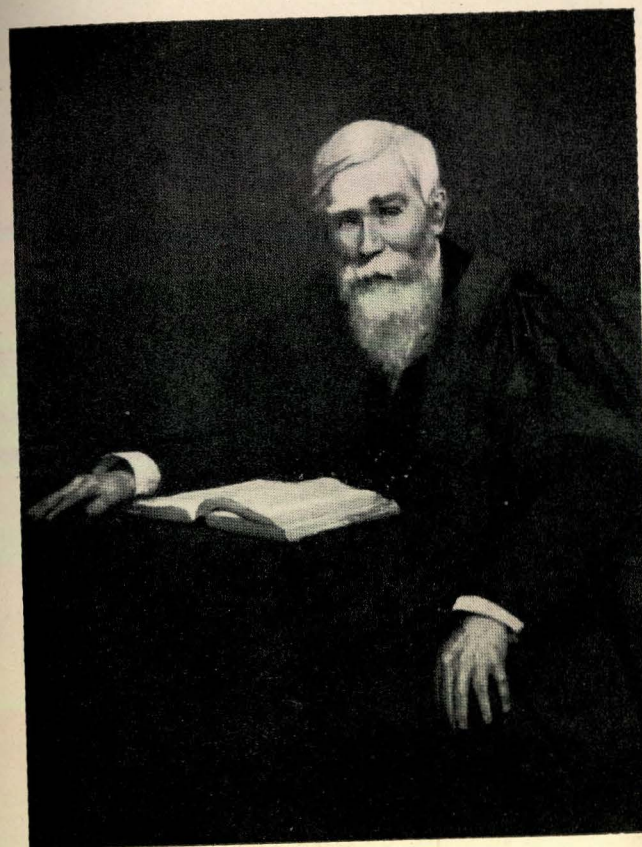
Such was the charge brought against the Economic Science and Statistics section of the British Association in 1877 by Sir Francis Galton, the founder of the science of Eugenics—"the subjects commonly brought before (it) cannot be considered scientific in the sense of the word that is sanctioned by the uses of the British Association."¹ When this attack was made, the Council of the Statistical Society had issued an invitation to the Association to meet in Dublin in 1878, which had been accepted. It must have appeared as though the main reason for their sending the invitation might cease to exist, but at the Council meeting in November, 1877 "Mr. Gordon (Assistant General Secretary, British Association) explained what had been decided by the London Council as to continuing the Section notwithstanding the questions which had been raised as to scientific character of the Papers." At this time John Kells Ingram had just become President of the Statistical Society and it was natural that he should be asked to take the same office in "Section F" when the British Association met in 1878. In his Introductory Address to the Section he did much to redeem its threatened position, and incidentally to enhance his own reputation, by deliberately facing the challenge and speaking of "The Present Position and Prospects of Political Economy."²

This fine address, with its powerful advocacy of the historical method in economics, attracted much attention not only in England but also on the Continent. It was translated into German by Dr. H. von Scheel, who held high office in the administration of the German Empire. Von Scheel and a number of other Continental economists were elected Honorary Members of the Statistical Society in 1879, and it seems evident that Ingram's address had also had its effect in drawing attention to the Society. The Society reprinted it in a special number of the Journal, along with a number of other papers read before the 1878 British

¹ Quoted in Howarth: *The British Association: A Retrospect 1831-1931* (London, 1931), p. 89.

² Printed as an Appendix to part liv, *Journal S.S.I.S.I.* (vol. vii). See below, Note on Ingram, and also C. Litton Falkiner, "Memoir of the late John Kells Ingram," *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. xi, p. 105.

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JOHN KELLS INGRAM,
PRESIDENT, 1878-1880.

Association meeting; it is interesting to note that these included one by W. S. Jevons "On the Periodicity of Commercial Crises, and its Physical Explanation."

A growing interest in papers of a purely statistical character is evident at this time, although it did not take firm root until the eighteen-eighties, and a closer relation between the Society and the official statistical departments also began to develop. The first indication of this is the appointment of a Committee in 1874 "to consider the reference from His Grace the Lord Lieutenant asking for an expression of opinion of the Council as to the proposal of the Registrar-General as to the future form of publication of Agricultural Statistics." A further, and perhaps more important, development came in 1877 when Baron Emly, the former Postmaster-General and President of the Society, drew the attention of the Council to the difficulties arising from the lack of uniformity with which the Census returns were recorded in Ireland, England and Scotland. A 'Census Uniformity Committee' was formed with a view to making representations before the next Census. Some further "Suggestions for the Irish Census of 1881" were made three years later in a paper by Henry L. Jephson. This marked the first occasion on which the Society had taken any public interest in the important question of Census compilation, which the Statistical Society of London had made a subject of regular decennial inquiries and recommendations since 1840.

Although William Donnelly, who was the first Registrar-General under the Act of 1863 and Census Commissioner from 1851 to 1871, was a member of the Society from the early eighteen-fifties¹ it was not until T. W. Grimshaw became Registrar-General in 1879 that the connection between the Society and official statisticians became a live and important one. Grimshaw favoured the Society with a series of valuable papers interpreting the information he gained in compiling official statistics. As has been pointed out, contributions of this kind grew more frequent after 1880, but the Society had to wait until 1889 to hear a professional statistician explain his methods of working in detail. This was R. E. Matheson, Grimshaw's assistant, who prepared a most valuable essay, in eight chapters, on "The Mechanism of

¹ Sir Thomas Larcom, who was a Commissioner for the great Census of 1841, was an original member of the Society, as also was Sir William Wilde, who was Assistant Commissioner from 1851 to 1871. Larcom's only direct communication to the Society was his "Address at the conclusion of the Third Session" and Wilde never gave a paper. The same is true of Donnelly.

Statistics." At the present day this still retains the greatest interest as an account of the technique of statistical work more than half a century ago. It is tantalising to find that a much earlier paper bearing on the same subject has not survived; on April 25th, 1871, "W. John Hancock read a paper entitled 'Some account of the English Calculating Machine invented by Mr. Babbage, the Swedish Machine of MM. Scheutz, and the French Machine of M. Thomas de Colmar.' Working specimens of the French Machine were exhibited." The Council, however, did not publish the paper in the Journal.

Papers of such significance as these deserve especial notice, but according to them may give a false impression—the impression that economic and statistical topics were the main concern of the Society at this time. Such was very far from being the case. It has already been said that a certain dominance of the Jurisprudence section became noticeable not long after the reorganisation of 1862. This was no more than natural in view of the number of eminent lawyers amongst the members, but it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that legal matters received an altogether disproportionate emphasis in the proceedings of the 'seventies and early 'eighties. Not only were there many papers on questions of jurisprudence and law reform, but also a number of specially commissioned essays and many reports of committees on similar subjects. Indeed never was the system of appointing special committees for particular investigations more frequently used. In the decade 1870–80 alone there were seventeen such committees appointed by the Council, more than twice as many as in the whole previous history of the Society. The overwhelming majority of these committees dealt with legal questions. In some degree this was itself the result of a report from a committee appointed in 1874, at the instigation of H. L. Jephson, to consider how greater attention might be secured for proposals for law amendment made before the Society. This report recommended that when such suggestions were brought before the Council, a committee should be appointed to consider them and report on them and the results be made available to any member of government who might wish to have the information.¹

The more costly system of commissioning essays could not be so widely used, but a donation of 100 guineas from Alexander Thom in 1871 enabled the Council to procure four reports "on questions of Irish Jurisprudence." Again in

¹ See *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. vi, p. 368.

1875, the Society offered three prizes of £30 each for essays "on the Differences in the Laws in the several parts of the United Kingdom, and on the best means of effecting assimilation where desirable."

All this would seem to support the view that the Council may have concentrated unduly on one of their objects—"the promotion of the study of Jurisprudence." But to state this is not to decry these activities of the Society, for they succeeded in procuring a remarkably large number of reforms in the law. Amongst these may be noted the revision of the statute law affecting Ireland, which had become chaotic in arrangement. This was pointed out by the Council in 1871, and measures for re-arrangement were secured in the following year. In 1876, the obsolete system of "market juries" was abolished, and Admiralty Jurisdiction was conferred on the Recorders of Belfast and Cork. Both these reforms had been recommended by committees of the Statistical Society in previous years. These are but a few instances of the more direct influence of the Society on legislation.¹

One committee, which did not deal with purely legal questions, is deserving of especial mention—the Charity Organisation Committee. This was formed in December, 1875, as a direct result of the address which John Kells Ingram had given at the opening of the session on "The Organisation of Charity, and the Education of the Children of the State." In this address, which displays the high qualities of social thinking which appear in everything Ingram wrote, he described the efforts of the London Charity Organisation Society² to improve the distribution of relief and suggested that some similar body might be set up in Dublin.

The Statistical Society's Charity Organisation Committee was established with the following terms of reference:—

- "1st. To collect further information as to the working of charity organisation in London.
- 2nd. To collect information as to the working of charities in Dublin, and to suggest the branches of charity organisation that could be best undertaken by charitable bodies in Dublin.
- 3rd. To collect, through existing charitable organisations, information as to the causes of pauperism, and to suggest

¹ For a full account of the Society's influence on legislation at this period see "What the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland has effected (1847–1880)." *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. viii, p. 146.

² For some account of the work of the London Charity Organisation Society, see Bell: *Octavia Hill* (London, 1942), pp. 107 *et seq.*

means by which such information may be more completely and systematically collected."¹

In the next two years the Committee presented six reports on these questions, which were printed in the *Journal*² and attracted considerable attention outside of Ireland.

After 1880 this type of activity fell off very sharply. There were only two committees appointed in the next ten years, both to deal with Census questions. So the centre of interest shifts again to the internal affairs of the Society, in which important changes took place at this period.

Since the Society had begun to meet in the Friends' Institute it had become possible to expand the Library more easily, and occasional donations increased it gradually, but its scope and value were greatly increased in 1879 when the Society received a bequest of over 500 volumes dealing with economic and social questions under the will of Sir Thomas Larcom, who died in that year. This important acquisition necessitated the renting of a special room in the Friends' Institute, the purchase of extra bookcases and the preparation of a catalogue. J. H. M. Campbell (who was then a Barrington Lecturer, but later was to become Lord Chancellor of Ireland) prepared a "Notice of the Books and Pamphlets bequeathed by Sir Thomas Larcom to the Society."³ In this he rightly drew special attention to the 136 volumes of letters and papers on social conditions in Ireland compiled by Larcom himself between 1850 and 1879. These are in the nature of albums in which newspaper cuttings and pamphlets dealing with the particular subject in question are carefully entered and documented, with comments and explanations in Larcom's own handwriting. Eighteen such volumes deal with the condition of Ireland from 1856 to 1879; these contain several official reports prepared by Larcom, of which probably the most important appears in the volume "Condition, 1859-60"—an essay on the progress of Ireland from the Union up to 1859, prepared for Lord Cardwell, the Chief Secretary. Many valuable autograph letters from the politicians of the day are scattered through the volumes. The other volumes, prepared in the same way, treat of such subjects as Poor Laws, Taxation of Ireland, the Jury System and Irish University Education. There is a special volume devoted to records of the Social Science Congress, and Larcom's interest in the Statistical Society is

¹ *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. vi, p. 502.

² For a full list of these reports, see Index.

³ *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. viii, p. 154.

evidenced by the care with which he kept accounts of its transactions.

For purposes of safety from fire these and certain other volumes of the Larcom bequest were transferred in 1919 to the National Library, where they are now accessible. They undoubtedly represent a unique and immensely valuable source of materials for Irish economic history and one which has never as yet been thoroughly explored.

When the Council, in their Report at the opening of the Session 1879-80, had mentioned Larcom's 'munificent donation of books,' they went on to state that the time was approaching when the Social Science Congress should again be asked to meet in Dublin. "The Council, however, feel that it would be premature to propose to their fellow citizens an invitation until the country has recovered from the depression of the present and past years." The situation had nevertheless improved sufficiently in the next year for the Council to feel justified in joining with the Town Council to issue an invitation for 1881, which was accepted.

The Congress met in Trinity College, Dublin, in October 1881, and its Secretary was able to write that "although the circumstances under which the Congress took place were exceptional, and an attendance below the average would perhaps not have been surprising, it is very gratifying to record the brilliant success of the meeting."¹ Again, members of the Statistical Society took a prominent part. Lord O'Hagan was then President of the National Association for Promotion of Social Science, and many of the Local Officers of the meeting were recruited from the Statistical Society. In addition to Lord O'Hagan's address, nine papers were read by members of the Society before the Congress.

In more important respects also the history of the 1861 meeting repeated itself. The National Association was now divided into five departments:—Jurisprudence and Amendment of the Law (itself sub-divided into two sections—International and Municipal Law, and Repression of Crime), Education, Health, Economy and Trade, and Art. Once again the Statistical Society was inspired by this example to reorganise itself in the same fashion and at a Council meeting in November, 1881, "it was resolved to recommend to the Society that the power of the Council be extended to dividing the business of the Society into Sections and to appointing two or more Secretaries for each of such Sections. The

¹ *Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science*, 1881, Introduction, p. xxxi.

Sectional Secretaries to take charge of the obtaining of papers and organising discussions on one or more nights of meeting specially devoted to the business of the Section and to act as Secretaries of any Committee named for Sectional business."

This proposal was adopted, and the business of the Society was divided into the following Sections:—I: Municipal and International Law, II: Repression of Crime, III: Education, IV: Economy and Trade, V: Public Health, VI: Art. This re-grouping was done without any alteration in the general objects of the Society, and it is difficult to see what real advantage was gained by this rather slavish following of the methods of the National Association for Promotion of Social Science. The latter was a large ambulatory body, with a very wide scope; the Statistical Society was a smaller affair with a fixed location. Its previous division into three departments was more than sufficient for its size and had tended to be more nominal than real; a sixfold division was entirely excessive and must have become either hampering or meaningless. It appears to have suffered the latter fate. The Society heard a few papers on Education, none at all on Art; there appears to have been little endeavour to assign specific Sections, and when the laws were revised in 1891 the idea of departmental organisation was finally abandoned.

The re-organisation of 1862 had a far-reaching and beneficial effect on the Society; it was necessitated by its rapid growth and heralded in a period of high prosperity and influence. The re-organisation of 1881 had little, if any, influence on the affairs of the Society; growth had ceased and the new arrangements did not serve to arrest the onset of the threatened decline. As the 'eighties wore on the Society lost by death more and more of the original members who had served it so energetically and so well. One cannot avoid remarking the coincidence of two events in January, 1889. The Treasurer "reported that the finances of the Society were not in good order" and John Kells Ingram read an obituary notice of his friend, William Neilson Hancock, the founder of the Society.

CHAPTER IV.

THE SOCIETY IN DECLINE, 1889-1914

THE history of the Statistical Society for the next quarter of a century presents a sharp contrast to that of its early years. The number of members and attendances at meetings fell heavily; the first meeting of the Session 1890-91 had to be postponed for a week, as only six members attended on the first occasion. After this, the experiment of afternoon meetings was tried, but with little success. The continuance of such a state of affairs had the inevitable consequences—the financial position of the Society became chronically precarious and the Council spent much of its time in considering schemes for economy or increasing membership, along with polite letters from the printers drawing attention to the large amount of the account outstanding.

Inevitably also the activities of the Society became narrowly circumscribed. The golden jubilee in 1897 passed without being marked by any celebration and although even at the worst a supply of papers was always forthcoming there was such difficulty in procuring them in the Fifty-first Session that only three meetings could be held. Special committees became few and far between, prize essays quite unheard of. Even the Barrington Lectures seemed likely to fade away. In 1894, the Trustees expressed a desire "that some scheme should be adopted whereby the trust funds might be spent to better advantage." As a result, the Council resorted in the following year to the old method of appointing a public lecturer from amongst candidates whose qualifications were tested by a prelection. C. H. Oldham was the successful candidate and retained the office until 1901, but after this no lecturer was appointed until 1904, and the scheme then lapsed completely until 1910, when a single lecturer was again elected, but for one season only. Not until 1920 were the lectureships revived again.

In brief, there is every indication at this period of an almost complete loss of public interest in the objects of the Society. It is comparatively easy to find the reasons for its early success; it is less easy to discover the causes of so

marked a decline at this particular period. Contemporary speakers in the Society were inclined to assign it to the disappearance of the founders¹ and certainly this was a significant factor. Hancock and his associates constituted a group of social reformers with a rare combination of talent, energy and enthusiasm; it was inevitable that the Society should lose something of its motive force when their influence passed away. But this in itself is not an adequate explanation; there were active and learned members, such as W. F. Bailey, Rev. T. A. Finlay, T. W. Grimshaw and R. E. Matheson, to take the place of the original company. These men and others like them ensured that even if the position of the Society was difficult, the quality of its transactions was maintained and had support been forthcoming it might have held as prominent a place in Irish affairs as it ever did.

The reason for lack of support may perhaps be found in the changing attitude towards social problems at this time. The tendency when the Society was founded had been to seek reform through discussion in, and action by, private bodies; by the end of the century direct State action was coming to be expected and approved. As W. H. Dodd phrased it in his Address at the opening of the forty-ninth Session:—"Freedom of contract was the one desirable thing in 1847; Social Legislation is the watchword of 1896."² Popular faith in the old maxims of Political Economy as a basis for social organisation was now entirely gone and the new Economics was becoming more a pure science, explanatory and neutral. As social legislation progressed, endorsed by public opinion, the usefulness of social inquiry societies appeared to decline; many of the reforms which they sought were achieved, and the problems which they had discussed dropped into the background. The era in which social improvement could best be advanced through the agency of societies and congresses seemed at an end.

That this is so is suggested by the heavy mortality amongst the minor statistical societies which sprang up so rapidly in the 'forties, and such a state of affairs was bound to affect the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland very adversely. From the outset social problems had been its main concern; it had never cultivated interest in pure Economics or statistical methods. Many of the problems which had long engaged the attention and activity of its members were passing out of the public mind as legislation

¹ E.g., James McDonnell, "Presidential Address at Opening of 40th Session," *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. ix, p. 107.

² *Journal S.S.I.S.I.* vol. x, p. 125.

for reform progressed, and there was now nothing comparable to the universal and critical distress of 1847 to exercise the public conscience.

Such considerations suggest possible reasons for the Society's decline, but they cannot be said to provide a conclusive explanation of it. It might certainly be argued that the development of social legislation provided many new topics which the Society might usefully have tackled. W. H. Dodd's address of 1896 stressed this point—citing recent measures of State intervention he says:—"It is precisely for the consideration of such subjects that this Society exists, and there never was a time when it could do so much service to the public as at present. For the principles which ought to guide men in dealing with State responsibility and individual liberty are very far from being either clearly or fully enunciated."¹ Moreover, this period in Ireland was one of much new social activity, undertaken by government and private interests alike. Sir Horace Plunkett's co-operative movement was gaining ground, the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction were doing valuable work. Here was good new material for the Statistical Society to study, providing help through surveys and criticism. That it had a useful function is evident, but very few appear to have appreciated the fact at the time. Fortunately, however, though the Society declined it was never allowed to collapse altogether, and again its work provides an instructive commentary on the social currents of the period.

Co-operation naturally finds an important place amongst the subjects treated before the Society about the turn of the century and papers were received from some of the most noted members of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. Foremost amongst them must be reckoned Father Finlay, whose "outstanding achievement in this field was the popular exposition of the co-operative idea in the days of its struggle for existence."² Active as he was in both Societies, he served as a most valuable link between them and on several occasions gave the Statistical Society the benefit of his wide knowledge of co-operative methods. George Russell also furnished an excellent paper in 1899 on "The Application of Co-Operation in the Congested Districts." 'A.E.' was not at this time a member of our Society, but was elected in 1910. Sir Horace

¹ *Journal S.S.I.S.I.* vol. x, p. 126.

² Sir Horace Plunkett, "Professor Finlay's Career as Social Reformer" in *A Page of Irish History; Story of University College, Dublin, 1883-1909* (Dublin, 1930), p. 250.

Plunkett himself joined in 1898, but never addressed the Society.

The activities of the Recess Committee, and the re-organisation of local government also found their reflection in the proceedings of the Society, with such papers as W. J. Johnston's "Coming Changes in Irish Local Government" (1898), and Charles Dawson's "The new Local Bodies, and the new Department of Agriculture and Technical Education, and the development of the Resources of Ireland." (1900).

Linked in some respects with the question of local government was that of public finance, which also attracted much attention in Ireland in the 'nineties. The 1896 Report of the Financial Relations Commission¹ led to much discussion of "the over-taxation of Ireland" and it was natural that the topic should come before the Society. It was principally treated by two members, N. G. Synnott, High Sheriff of Kildare, and A. W. Samuels, then a Queen's Counsel but subsequently Attorney-General of Ireland.

Samuels also made peculiarly his own a problem which was then arousing interest amongst the legal members of the Society—that of private bill legislation for Ireland. The cost and difficulty of procuring any private Act was then a severe hindrance to schemes of municipal improvement or industrial development in Ireland, and Samuels stressed the need for reform in a series of papers between 1896 and 1904.

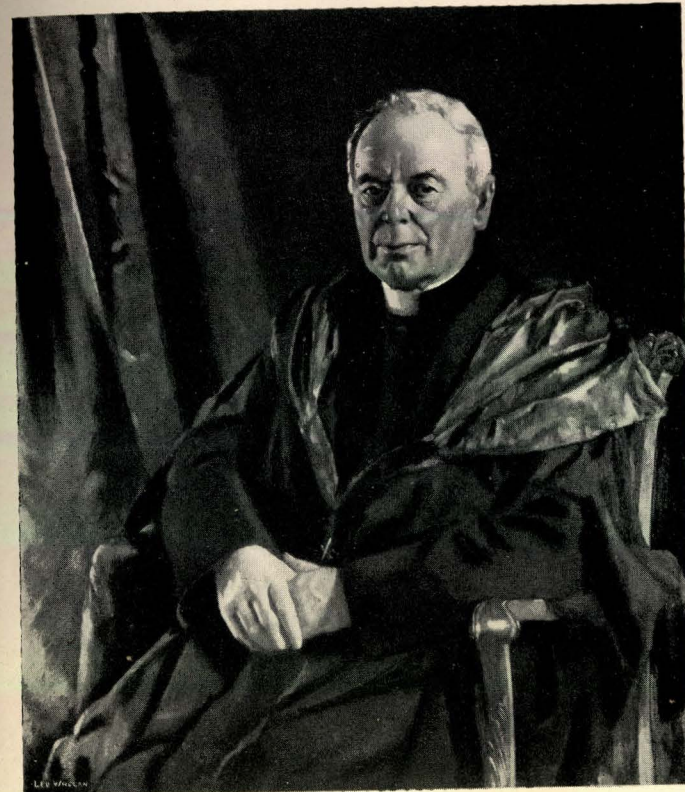
In the first years of the twentieth century the housing question was one with which the Society was frequently concerned. In 1903 R. E. Matheson, then Registrar-General, stated in the course of a paper that "the material improvement in the housing of the people of Ireland since 1841 is very satisfactory, but there is still much to be accomplished."² Many other papers during this decade dealt with the housing of labourers in rural districts, as affected by the Labourers (Ireland) Acts and the Land Purchase Acts, as well as with the problem of overcrowding in the cities. Numerous suggestions were put forward for regulating and improving existing accommodation and stimulating the construction of new dwellings. One of the few Committees appointed in this period dealt with Housing in Dublin and produced a Report

¹ 1896-C.8262.

It is worth noting that when the Commission visited Dublin in 1895, one of its members, Sir David Barbour, read the Society a paper on another topical question—Bimetallism. (*Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. x, p. 100).

² "Housing of the People of Ireland during the period 1841-1901," *Journal S.S.I.S.I.* vol. xi, p. 211.

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THOMAS ALOYSIUS FINLAY,
PRESIDENT, 1911-1913.

on the "Control and Improvement of Tenement Houses" which was read in 1914.¹

It is noticeable that the treatment in some of these papers on housing was strongly statistical, and interest in more definitely statistical subjects was growing throughout the whole of this period. In 1892, William (later Sir William) Findlater devoted his Presidential Address to a consideration of statistics as a method of science; in 1912 the President, Father Finlay, also selected a statistical topic, of a more practical kind—"The Significance of some Recent Irish Statistics." A number of most valuable contributions took the form of statistical surveys, such as T. W. Grimshaw's "Irish Progress during the past ten Years, 1881-1890" (1891), R. M. Barrington's "Notes on the Prices of Irish Agricultural Produce, illustrated by Diagrams" (1893), J. Todhunter Pim's "Review of the Economic and Social Conditions of Ireland" (1899) and D. A. Chart's "Two Centuries of Irish Agriculture. A Statistical Retrospect, 1672-1905" (1908).

Census questions received more attention than at any previous time, and the connection with the official statistical bureaus was maintained and developed. In 1900 the Council agreed to co-operate with the Royal Statistical Society in urging upon the government the need for a quinquennial census of a limited character, and sought the aid of Dublin's Members of Parliament for the purpose.² After the Censuses of 1901 and 1911 the Society heard papers explaining the results from the Registrar-General of the day—in 1901 R. E. Matheson and in 1911 Sir William Thompson. Two very valuable papers on the history of the Irish Census were Mr. Herbert Wood's "Methods of Registering and Estimating the Population of Ireland before 1864" (1908) and Sir William Thompson's "Development of the Irish Census and its National Importance" (1911). These still constitute almost the only sources from which this important information can be obtained in concise form. At the end of this period, the appearance of papers such as Father Finlay's "Labour Associations in their Relation to the State" (1911) and D. A. Chart's "General Strike as a Labour Weapon" (1912) recall the difficulties of industrial relations in Dublin at the time, while W. Dudley Edwards' "National Insurance Act, 1911, as applying to Ireland" has historical interest as a comment on this landmark in social legislation.

¹ *Journal S.S.I.S.I.* vol. xiii, p. 176.

² See also *Annals of the Royal Statistical Society*, p. 159.

Thus, despite straitened circumstances, a considerable amount of useful work was achieved in these years. Nor did the Society lose its position in the general world of social science, for contacts with other societies and scientific bodies were wisely maintained in spite of all difficulties. One important event in this connection was the Tercentenary Celebrations at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1892, which brought a large number of distinguished academic men to the city. Many noted economists and jurists were included and the Statistical Society held a breakfast in their honour in the Leinster Lecture Hall on July 9th, 1892. As a consequence some very famous names were added to the list of Honorary Members—amongst them James Bryce (later Viscount Bryce), then Professor of Civil Law at Oxford, his colleagues Sir Frederick Pollock and F. Y. Edgeworth, and the continental economists Leon Say, Luigi Cossa and P. Leroy-Beaulieu.

The Society continued to send delegates regularly to the annual meetings of the British Association, but of more direct importance was the visit of the Association to Dublin in 1908. On this occasion Statistical Society members were responsible for several papers on agriculture and housing read in Section F, while Sir Horace Plunkett acted as Chairman of the Sub-Section on Agriculture. The list of Corresponding Societies had by this time come to include little but foreign societies, most of the Irish provincial literary institutes and mechanics' institutions having passed away, but relations were maintained with a very representative group of British and continental statistical associations, including the old-established London, Manchester and Frankfurt Societies.

Amongst all the changes and vicissitudes since 1862, the Society had continued to meet in the Friends' Institute (Leinster Lecture Hall), Molesworth Street, but this arrangement was finally terminated in 1910. For a time no new home was found, and meetings were held wherever a hall could be hired. In 1912, however, the Council agreed to accept the offer generously made by the Institute of Bankers for the Society to use their premises at No. 93, St. Stephen's Green. Here meetings were held until 1921, and accommodation was found for the Library, advantage being taken of the opportunity thus afforded to re-arrange and catalogue the books.

These changes, combined with a strenuous effort to build up membership and reduce expenses, produced some improvement in the position of the Society, so that at the time of the outbreak of war in 1914, the outlook was at least more hopeful than it had been at the turn of the century.

CHAPTER V.

CHANGE AND ADVANCE, 1914-1947

ALTHOUGH the position of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland in 1914 was comparatively sound it retained only the shadow of its former glories and its activities were on a very small scale. It was still necessary to practise the strictest economy, and although in 1916 the President, Charles A. Stanuall, prepared a circular soliciting increased membership and had it printed at his own expense, the number of members fell from 76 in 1914 to 54 in 1916.

During the war period the Barrington Lectures remained in abeyance and no special inquiries of any kind were conducted; the reading of papers constituted the whole work of the Society, and even this was much restricted by comparison with former years. Indeed the continued existence of the Society at this time was only made possible by the loyal and energetic support of a small group of active officers and members. Amongst these Professor C. H. Oldham, Dr. William Lawson, Sir Thomas Molony, Sir William J. Thompson, the Registrar-General and his assistant Mr. Daniel S. Doyle may be specially mentioned, along with Mr. S. Shannon Millin and Mr. Herbert Wood. These are still familiar names to the present generation in the Statistical Society, and some of them, such as Mr. Wood and Sir Thomas Molony, still have an honoured place in the list of members.

The economic repercussions of the world events of the period naturally attracted public attention to a greater extent than local social problems, and the Journals published during and just after the war years form an interesting commentary on those now historic economic changes. The immediate problems of war economy were examined in the Presidential Address given in November, 1914, by Charles Stanuall on "The Effect of the War on Irish Agriculture," and also in such papers as Professor Oldham's "The Economic Interests involved in the Present War" (1915) and Newman Thompson's "The Finance of the War" (1918). Nor were the members neglectful of the problems which recently became familiar again under the name of "post-war planning"—

as is shown by the appearance of papers on "Post-War Functions of Commercial Education" and "Weights and Measures after the War" by Arthur Williamson and Charles Stanuall respectively.

Statistical inquiries were perhaps not matters of great importance in Ireland during the troubled years from 1918 to 1922. Yet it is surely to the credit of the Society that its activities were maintained and even expanded during this difficult period; the invariable rule that party politics must be excluded from the transactions enabled social questions to be usefully and dispassionately examined, just as they always had been since 1847. Both the quantity and quality of papers were well maintained, and many of the contributions of those years have still a considerable interest at the present time. Mention may be made particularly of Sir William Thompson's Presidential Address in 1918, "Fifty Years of Vital Statistics in Ireland," a comprehensive and revealing survey of the material. In 1919, D. A. Chart's paper on the "Study of the Economic History of Ireland" drew attention to a much neglected subject, while the title of R. J. Kelly's paper "The Recent British Bank Amalgamations and Ireland" recalls the public controversy about the danger of a 'money trust.'

While the normal work of the Society was thus continuing, useful changes in its organisation were also being made. In February, 1918, Mr. S. Shannon Millin was appointed to the position of Honorary Librarian, and did much to enhance the usefulness both of the volumes which the Society had collected and the Journals which it had published. It was at his instigation that the valuable Larcom bequest was transferred to the National Library of Ireland,¹ and he also undertook to meet a long-felt want by compiling a complete index to the transactions of the Society. It was this index which formed the nucleus of the interesting volume of "Historical Memoirs of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland"² which has since been the basic source and guide for all interested in the development and work of the Society, and from which not a little of the material for this History has been derived.

When Mr. Millin began his work, the Library was still accommodated at 93 St. Stephen's Green, but it had shortly to be moved again when the Institute of Bankers gave up those premises. A new home was found in Plunkett House, the headquarters of the Irish Agricultural Organization

¹ See above, pp. 32 and 33.

² Dublin, Ponsonby, 1920.

Society, where the Society first met in 1921. The minutes of the period include an autograph letter from Sir Horace Plunkett himself, regretting his inability to be present to welcome the Society as "I am compelled to go early to my home where I am taking A. E. for his convalescence after influenza." The paper for the meeting was Mr. F. Ryan's "What the Worker Should Know"¹ and Sir Horace's letter ends with a characteristic comment:—"I hope that among the things 'the worker should know' will be remembered the ideal of a Co-Operative Commonwealth as a compromise between the Workers' Republic and the Capitalistic State."²

The period after the first World War also saw the revival of one of the Society's oldest concerns—the Barrington Lectures. During 1919 enquiries were received from Belfast and Cork as regards the possible continuance of the lectures; the Council consulted the Trustees and as a result Mr. (now Professor) Joseph Johnston was appointed Barrington Lecturer early in 1920. The lectures continued to be conducted regularly during the succeeding years, with the exception of 1923, but the long standing connection of the Trust with the Statistical Society, whereby the Trustees sought the advice and help of the Council in the management of the lectures, fell gradually into disuse. It was revived in 1931 through the efforts of the President of the Statistical Society, Mr. J. C. M. Eason; since 1932, as a result, three or four³ lecturers have been appointed annually by the Trustees in consultation with the Council, and each lecturer has been assigned to a specified area.

These changes of the early nineteen-twenties seem symptomatic of reviving interest in the affairs of the Society. Meetings became more regular and membership was almost doubled between 1921 and 1925; the outlook for the Society grew more hopeful than it had been for many years. In this respect the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 was a most important development. The existence of a Government in Dublin, requiring comprehensive statistical information, inevitably had favourable repercussions on the Statistical Society and gave a new impetus to its work. Strenuous and

¹ Read April 7th, 1921. The letter does not refer to the first occasion on which the Society met in Plunkett House.

² Although a friendly link has always been maintained between the Statistical and Irish Agricultural Organisation Societies, since 1925 the former has ceased to meet in Plunkett House and has met in the Royal Irish Academy. Thus at the Centenary history repeats itself—the Statistical Society is meeting again on the premises of the Society which first gave it hospitality.

³ Since 1940.

successful efforts were made to increase membership at this period, Professor Oldham giving a special lead in this direction when he became President in 1925. Many new recruits were drawn from the Irish Civil Service and the close and valuable connection with the Statistics Branch of the Department of Industry and Commerce may be dated from that year.

One important effect of this connection has been to develop the interest of the Society in Census questions. The tradition, dating from 1901, that the Society should hear a paper from the officer in charge of the Census whenever it has been taken has been maintained, but the paper is now read before the Census and has become a review of its objects rather than its results. Moreover, there has been a useful development in the tradition since 1926—it has become customary for the Government Department concerned to consult the Society for suggestions and advice on matters connected with the Census, and for the Society to appoint a special Sub-Committee for this work.

It may be noted that whereas in 1926 it was the Registrar-General who read the 'Census paper' before the Society and the Department of Local Government and Public Health which sought the Society's advice, in subsequent decades these roles have been filled by the Director of Statistics and the Department of Industry and Commerce respectively. In fact, the Census of 1926 was not taken under the authority of a special Act, as in 1911 and earlier years, but under the Statistics Act, 1926, which is administered by the Department of Industry and Commerce, and this is the present position.

Another result of the influx of new members into the Society has been the increased interest displayed in purely statistical problems, both of theory and interpretation, while economic theory has also received a greater share of attention than in former years. Members have not been indifferent to the social problems of the time; in particular the problem of unemployment, which hung so heavily over the whole inter-war period, has frequently been discussed. Nevertheless, the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland has done more to live up to the first part of its name during the past twenty years than at any previous period of its existence, and some important contributions to statistical knowledge have been made. The reader may test the truth of these statements by a reference to the Index.

These good results were not solely due to the efforts made in 1925, although their commencement may be dated from that time. Rather they were the outcome of a sustained attempt to increase the prestige and usefulness of the Society.

[To face page 44.]



JOHN HOOPER,
PRESIDENT, 1929-1930.

In 1928 a special fund was opened to wipe out the financial deficit and in 1930 a circular was distributed to potential members drawing attention to the purposes and achievements of the Society. In consequence, all through the 'thirties the Treasurer was able to report a gratifying increase of membership and a sound financial position. With economic and statistical questions constantly before the public, interest in the objects of the Society developed once more¹ and a sound connection was built up not only with the Civil Service but also with the academic and commercial life of the country.

Links with the wider world of statistical inquiry were also further developed. An important event in this regard was the Centenary of the Royal Statistical Society in 1934. Celebrations took place in London in April of that year, and in connection with these the International Institute of Statistics arranged to hold its twenty-second biennial Congress there at the same time.

This latter body itself originated at the Jubilee Meeting of the Royal Statistical Society in 1885, as a development of the older International Statistical Congresses. These had lapsed in 1876, but the need for international development and uniformity of statistics which had prompted the first Congress in 1853 remained, and it was decided to form a new international body better designed to assist the progress of statistics. The International Institute has since become the foremost statistical body in the world, including amongst its 200 members the most distinguished academic and official statisticians of the time.²

It was thus a considerable honour for the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society to act as host when the members of the Institute visited Dublin at the conclusion of the twenty-second Congress in 1934. The President and Council welcomed the visitors when they arrived at Dun Laoghaire on April 21st and arranged a suitable programme for the five days of their stay. The members of the Institute were entertained to dinner by the Society and were also received by the President of the Executive Council and the President and Governing Body of University College, Dublin, whilst several excursions to places of interest were arranged. This visit did much to

¹ Paradoxically, this may have been a result of the Great Depression. The increase in membership was quite substantial in the years 1931-33, although the reverse might have been expected.

² For an account of the history and administration of the Institute, see Stanley Lyon: "The Session of the International Institute of Statistics at Mexico, 1933," *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, 1933-34, p. 43. Also *Annals of the Royal Statistical Society*, pp. 141 and 155, and *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Jubilee Volume*, 1885.

strengthen the relations of the Statistical Society with similar bodies in other countries, relations which were well maintained until the outbreak of war in 1939, and may, it is to be hoped, soon be resumed.

The thriving condition of the Society in the 'thirties made possible a number of improvements in its work. While papers of high quality have been regularly forthcoming, the method of the symposium has come into use to some extent with increasing membership. It proved possible before the war to increase the size of the Journal and the useful practice of reporting discussions in it was begun.

Some recent experiments in the work of the Society are also deserving of note. An attempt was made in 1933 to revive the essay system in a slightly different form by offering a prize 'for the best essay of a statistical character'. Unfortunately the results were disappointing and did not justify a repetition of the contest. Greater success attended a completely new departure—the broadcasting of discussions amongst members of the Society. The first suggestion for this came in December, 1937, from Dr. T. J. Kiernan, then Director of Broadcasting, who has long been a member of the Society. After some consideration it was arranged that Radio Eireann should feature a discussion on "The Population Problem" in April 1938. This new experiment had good results and another broadcast on "Unemployment" was arranged in May, 1940; on each occasion the discussions were reprinted in the Journal.

The emergency circumstances under which the Society has had to work for the past six years have fortunately produced no adverse effect on its development. Instead, interest in the Society's affairs has continued to grow and membership figures have mounted steadily to levels which rival those of the best years in the eighteen-fifties. The normal activities of the Society have not had to be curtailed and indeed before paper restrictions became severe it was possible to print extra copies of the Journal and also to publish some papers in special pamphlet form for sale to the general public.

An interesting and potentially important development during the war years was the extension of Associate Membership in 1943 to include students at a reduced subscription. Persons under 22 years of age may now join as Associates on payment of a subscription of five shillings, and have the right to attend ordinary meetings, receive papers, and take part in discussions. The scheme is of too recent origin to show much results as yet, but the number of Associates is

beginning to increase and it may shortly prove possible to devote special meetings to discussions amongst student members.

So this history may end as it began—with an account of vigorous growth. As the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland approaches its Centenary it can look back on a history which justifies pride and forward to a future which justifies confidence.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

RICHARD WHATELY (1787-1863).

No sketch of Whately's career which could be given here can make any pretensions to completeness. Of his position in the religious and political controversies of his day, his standing as philosopher and divine, nothing can be said in these pages.¹ It is only Whately as the economist and patron of Political Economy who can be considered here.

Whately succeeded his lifelong friend Nassau Senior in the Drummond Chair of Political Economy at Oxford in 1829 and discharged the duties of the Professorship until he was appointed Archbishop of Dublin in 1831. He published one series of 'Introductory Lectures on Political Economy,'² which contained little that was original apart from some comments on population, division of labour and the nature of value. Nevertheless he had a strong interest in the subject and when translated to Dublin he conceived the idea of founding a professorship there on the lines of that at Oxford. Hence originated the Whately Professorship of Political Economy at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1832. The establishment of the Chair represented the first attempt to provide organised instruction in economic subjects in Ireland, and out of it most Irish economic work in the nineteenth century developed; but the plan at first met with strong opposition, for there was considerable prejudice against Political Economy at the time. Whately, however, succeeded in carrying out his intention and earned the description of 'father of economic science in Ireland.'³

Although he could no longer be active as an economist himself, Whately always retained a lively concern for the promotion of economic knowledge. Throughout his lifetime he paid the salary of the Professor of Political Economy from his own pocket, assisted at the examination of the

¹ For a brief treatment of these and other aspects of Whately's life, the reader is referred to the article by J. M. Rigg in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. xx; and for further information to E. Jane Whately: *Life and Correspondence of Richard Whately* (London, 1866).

² London, 1831, 2nd ed. (including Lecture IX and other additions), London, 1832.

³ J. A. Lawson: Address at the Opening of the Sixteenth Session, *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. iii, p. 285.

candidates for the position, and interested himself in their work. But he was not content to have Political Economy taught at the University level; he also sought to introduce it into schools. In fact, the only other economic work he wrote was 'Easy Lessons on Money Matters; for the Use of Young People'—one of a series of texts which he prepared for children. Nowadays one may smile at the smug finality with which classical principles were asserted in it, but it was a creditable attempt at the very difficult task of making economic principles intelligible to children and proved enormously successful in its day.

With such enthusiasm for stimulating public interest in economic questions, Whately naturally gave strong approval and support to the proposals for the establishment of the Dublin Statistical Society and, subsequently, the Social Inquiry Society. It was equally natural that he should be chosen for the office of President in both cases, for many of the founders were indebted to him for their training or status in Political Economy. His appointment was not a mere act of courtesy, however, for his interest in the new Societies and their objects was real and sustained. The two addresses which he gave, to the Statistical Society in 1848 and the Social Inquiry Society in 1851, were general in character, dealing with the aims and progress of those Societies, and he did not normally contribute to their Transactions. He was, however, a frequent attendee at meetings and often called the attention of the Council to social and economic problems which interested him. One such question was reform of the coinage; Whately submitted a plan for international coinage to the managers of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and the Dublin Statistical Society's petition of 1855 in favour of decimal coinage¹ was probably largely due to his influence, for he was wont to bring publications of the Decimal Association to the notice of the Society.

In such ways evidences of his continued connection with Social Science and influence in the work of this Society appear right up to the time of his death. He acted as President of 'Section F' when the British Association met in Belfast in 1852 and again at the Dublin meeting in 1857. In 1859 he passed on to the Council some information which he had received about the rehabilitation of discharged convicts and suggested an investigation into the possibility of promoting schemes for this purpose in Ireland, while the Minute Book

¹ See above, History of the Society, p. 13.

of 1860 contains the entry: "Archbishop Whately's questions were considered and referred to Mr. McDonnell and Dr. Hancock to prepare papers on the questions."¹

As late as January, 1863, when he was over 75 years of age and in failing health, Whately appeared before the Statistical Society to read the only paper he ever presented to it. This took the form of notes of a conversation between himself and Nassau Senior "On Secondary Punishments." This was a question which had always interested him—some thirty years before his "Thoughts on Secondary Punishments" and "Letter to Earl Gray on Transportation" had attracted much attention and contributed to the abolition of the latter form of sentence—and in this paper he repeated his conviction that the proper form of punishment was not a fixed term of imprisonment but a fixed amount of labour which the prisoner should be encouraged to complete as soon as possible.

This was his last appearance before the Society; he died in the autumn of the same year. In paying tribute to his memory the officers of the Statistical Society expressed themselves as being much indebted to him for his example and encouragement. And this was true in a quite real sense for though the actual work which Whately did for the Society was negligible in comparison with the efforts of Hancock and his associates, it was Whately who had started the train of events which led up to the foundation of the Society, and Whately alone who had made its foundation possible.

MOUNTIFORT LONGFIELD (1802-1884).

A member of the old Cork family of Longfield of Longueville, Longfield gave early evidence of powerful intellect and varied talents. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated with a Moderatorship and Gold Medal in Science in 1823, afterwards obtaining Fellowship at the early age of 23. Longfield was one of the four lay Fellows elected as 'jurists' and he was called to the Irish Bar in 1828, taking the degree of LL.D. in 1831.

It was in 1831 that Archbishop Whately founded the Dublin

¹ The content of the questions is not stated, but a month later McDonnell read a paper on 'Limitation of Actions' and Hancock two: 'Plan for obviating the Identification of Luggage at Kingstown and Holyhead' and 'Changes required to make more effectual provision for the Protection of Life and Property against Destruction by Fire in Dublin.' If the two facts were connected, this would imply that the Archbishop's questions had a wide range!

Chair of Political Economy and set about looking for a suitable candidate to fill it. His choice fell on Longfield, who from 1832 to 1836 discharged the duties of the Professorship in a manner which should have placed him in the front rank of living economists. He developed and published the greater part of a theoretical system astounding in its consistent originality and at least thirty-five years in advance of the times. Perhaps because of this very fact, he failed to gain any wide recognition outside of Ireland and when his tenure of the Whately Chair ended he reverted almost entirely to his old profession of the law. Already in 1834 he had become Regius Professor of Feudal and English Law and he was admitted a Queen's Counsel in 1842. Thus when he became one of the original two Vice-Presidents of the Dublin Statistical Society in 1847, Longfield was already a well-established lawyer and his colleagues respected him as a brilliant economist—as is shown by the fact that one of the papers of the first session was "On the English and Irish Analysis of Wages and Profits" by Robert Vance, a barrister. Vance compared the accepted Theory of Distribution with that advanced by Longfield, and rightly concluded that the latter was much superior.

As a lawyer, Longfield's speciality was real property and when the first Encumbered Estates Act was passed in 1849 he became one of the three Commissioners appointed under it and subsequently, in 1858, a Judge of the Landed Estates Court, when this was set up to supersede the original Commission. He had become a Commissioner of National Education in 1853 and was made a Bencher of King's Inns in 1859. On the death of Whately in 1863, Longfield was at once offered the Presidency of the Statistical Society¹, which he retained until 1867, the year in which he was sworn into the Irish Privy Council and left the Landed Estates Court.

Longfield's communications to the Society were rare, but they contained much that was original and showed that in social as well as economic questions he had independent and advanced ideas. In 1855 he informed the members that 'a great and interesting problem for your consideration will be what steps the State can take to direct, without coercing, the tastes and habits of the labouring classes into the course most likely to be productive of happiness to themselves.'² When he reviewed the state of Ireland in his

¹ As to the tenure of the Presidency, see above, History of the Society, p. 23.

² Address at the opening of the 9th Session, *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. i, page 153.

Presidential Address of 1864 he indicated that while agricultural methods must be improved the country could not achieve prosperity through absolute dependence on agriculture. Considering the possibilities of industrial development, he recognised the difficulty of establishing trades requiring heavy capitalisation, but pointed out that there were many industries not subject to this objection and went on to give a detailed scheme for their operation by 'co-operative societies of working men.'

Interesting as are these points they are of little significance by comparison with the content of the one actual paper which Longfield gave to the Statistical Society—"The Limits of State Interference with the Distribution of Wealth, in applying Taxation to the Assistance of the Public"¹—which must certainly be regarded as one of the most important communications ever heard by the Society. Already in 1870 Cairnes had exploded the myth that economists were inevitably committed to approval of the policy of *laissez-faire* and shown that "Political Economy stands apart from all particular systems of social and industrial existence."² Cairnes, however, merely said that *laissez-faire* "is a *practical rule*, and not a doctrine of science; a rule in the main sound, but like most other sound practical rules, liable to numerous exceptions;"³ he did not undertake to indicate where the rule did or did not apply. This, broadly, was the task which Longfield set himself in his paper of 1872, holding that simply because there was a general presumption against the value of state intervention in economic affairs it did not follow that there should be no intervention at all. No doubt any indication of the desirable limits of state interference must rest on personal opinion and this is the obvious reason why Cairnes, seeking to show the neutrality of economic theory, avoided the question. Accepting this, however, Longfield's personal opinions still have the greatest interest since they differ so much from those generally held at the time.

Within the limits of his subject, Longfield dealt mainly with the question of State assistance to increase the real income of the poorer classes, ignoring the problem of how the necessary taxation would be levied and dismissing the danger of its having deterrent effects on capital accumulation

¹ *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. vi, page 105.

² Cairnes: "Political Economy and *Laissez-faire*." An introductory Lecture delivered in University College, London, November, 1870. Reprinted as No. 7 of his *Essays in Political Economy, Theoretical and Applied*. (London, 1873).

³ *Essays in Political Economy*, p. 251. Cairnes' italics.

as unimportant. Showing a thorough awareness of the unsatisfactory nature of tests of fitness to receive relief, he confined himself to citing the classes of persons who might receive aid without tests and the extent of the benefits which might be freely given to the general public. Briefly, his programme of social assistance comprised:—Old age pensions for labourers at age 60, to be doubled at age 70; universal pensions for the blind; state education and support for deaf mutes. He also suggested widespread provision of state hospitals and convalescent homes where every citizen would have the right to receive treatment without proof of want. These are the main items in "a brief and imperfect sketch of various modes in which the wealth of a nation may be applied to the assistance of the working classes." For the welfare of the community as a whole he proposed general state education, strict control of housing to prevent overcrowding and insanitary conditions, ample provision of parks and a state scheme of clubrooms for workers.

Here then is a paper which not merely anticipates many of the schemes of social reform which are now familiar but also includes some which have yet to be completed; it may be a little difficult to realise that it was written almost seventy-five years ago.

Some idea of Longfield's mental quality and versatility can be gained from the fact that in 1872 he also published "An Elementary Treatise on Series," showing that he had lost none of his early mathematical ability. Besides his intellectual achievements, he was also active in the practical sphere of reform. As has been noted¹ the Land Debentures Act of 1865 was largely based on the 'Proposal for an Act to authorise the issue of Land Debentures in connection with Sales made by the Landed Estates Court' which he brought before the Statistical Society in 1861. He also developed out of the essay on 'Land Tenure in Ireland,' which he wrote for the Cobden Club in 1870, what came to be known as the "Longfield Scheme of Parliamentary Tenant-Right." This was one of the best of many plans for security of tenure advanced at the time of Gladstone's original Land Bill, but it was somewhat too radical to secure acceptance at that stage of events, although it was strongly supported by Cairnes and others.

Although he remained a respected member of the Statistical Society until his death, Longfield ceased to take any active part in public life for some ten years beforehand. His achieve-

¹ *Supra*, History of the Society, p. 25.

ments are well summed up in the tribute paid to him by James McDonnell in the Presidential Address of 1884 :—

“ An eminent judge, a learned scholar, and a profound political teacher, he, through his whole life, placed his great talents at the service of his country . . . His lectures as Whately Professor of Political Economy, and the addresses and papers he read before this Society, show how completely he had mastered economic and social science, and the numerous commissions and boards on which he served, how willing he was to labour for the public good.”¹

THOMAS AISKEW LARCOM (1801–1879).

Of the original members of the Dublin Statistical Society none was more eminent as a practical statistician than Captain T. A. Larcom and few, if any, have a better title to be remembered and respected in the Society.

An Englishman, Larcom was destined for a career in the Army and was gazetted a Second-Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers at the age of 19. Four years later he was selected for duty in the Ordnance Survey, then, under the direction of Colonel Colby, about to be extended to Ireland. Larcom worked for two years on the survey of England and Wales, and in 1826 was transferred to the Irish survey. He took an outstanding part in that great undertaking and his work in this field alone would have earned him a lasting reputation. The Ordnance Survey of Ireland ‘ was the work of no common men ’² but Larcom was a worthy addition to the distinguished group of engineer officers who carried it out. In 1828 Colby put him in charge of the central organisation of the Survey at Dublin and he discharged the heavy duties of the post with consummate ability, introducing every improvement which could render the work more efficient and its results more valuable. “ In the course of a very few years the establishment at Mountjoy, in Phoenix Park, was without an equal in the world, the pride of Ireland, the admiration of scientific travellers.”³

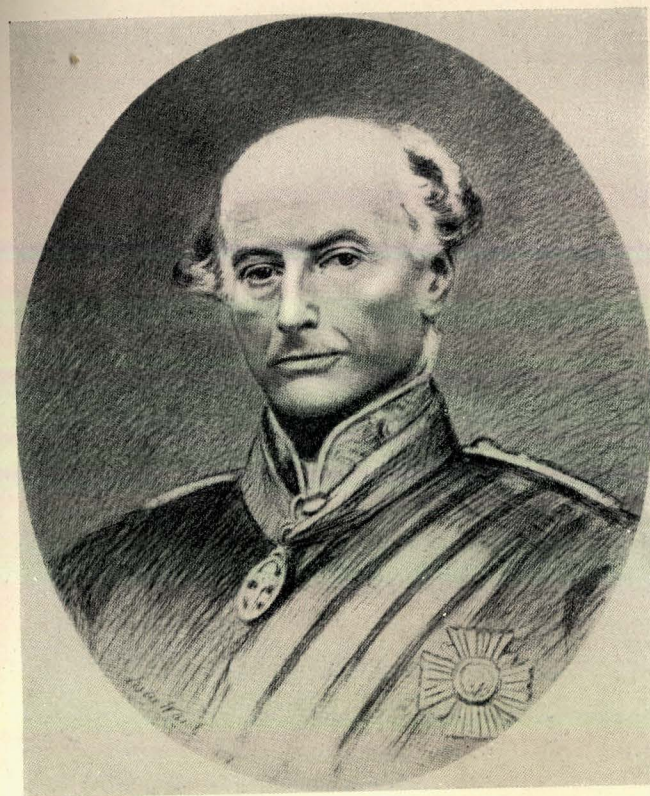
But Larcom was much more than an able organiser and a skilful engineer. He was an antiquarian and a social historian who planned to make the Survey a basis for the

¹ James McDonnell : Address at the Opening of the Thirty-Eighth Session. *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. viii, page 578.

² Obituary notice of Sir Thomas Larcom. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, vol. xxix, 1879, p. x.

³ *Ibid.*, p. xii.

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THOMAS AISKEW LARCOM,
VICE-PRESIDENT, 1847-1879.

collection of comprehensive local information about every part of the country. He applied himself to this task with his customary vigour and succeeded in collecting a vast amount of valuable material about the history and conditions of various localities. One volume of this comprehensive survey was published—that covering the parish of Templemore, including the city of Londonderry. It was remarkable for its scope and thoroughness, covering as it did the 'Natural Features and Natural History; Artificial State, Modern and Ancient; Productive Economy and Social Economy' of the region.¹ Unfortunately, for reasons of economy the Government refused to sanction the publication of further volumes, but the work was carried on by various learned societies, and many of Larcom's manuscripts passed to the Royal Irish Academy and other bodies. His results were also utilised for other governmental purposes; on the basis of them he prepared the plans required for the Irish Reform Bill in 1832 and the topographical section of the Report on Irish Municipal Reform in 1836.

The Ordnance Survey of Ireland was completed in 1846, and Larcom had then been the effective head of it for eight years. He accepted the offer of a position of Commissioner of Public Works and so finally gave his administrative talents entirely to the Civil Service. Already he had acted as a temporary Commissioner for several purposes; that which now appears as by far the most important was the compilation of the Census of 1841. Irish statisticians nowadays speak of it as the 'Great Census' and it was Larcom who made it great. Just as with the Ordnance Survey, so he made the Census a model of its kind, an example for his contemporaries to copy and his successors to admire. It was he who introduced into it the systematic classification of the population according to occupations and general condition, subsequently adopted in England and elsewhere. But the work was distinguished as much by the ingenuity and thoroughness of its detailed compilation as by the originality of its overall plan—a fact which is plainly evident from the manuscript volumes in which the results were first collected, some of which are now in the possession of the Statistical Society of Ireland. Larcom was also responsible for the plan for the collection of Irish agricultural statistics which led to the formation of a permanent branch of the Registrar-General's department for that purpose. In thus promoting the compilation of accurate statistical information on the condition of Ireland he certainly

¹ *Ordnance Survey of the County of Londonderry*. Dublin, 1835.

merited the position of Vice-President of the Statistical Society to which he was elected at its foundation in 1847.

At that time Larcom's powers were being tested to the full, for as Commissioner of Public Works he was in complete charge of schemes for famine relief. In the light of history those schemes may be easily criticised, but the conscientious zeal with which Larcom carried out his duties may not. He never spared himself in the attempt to alleviate the suffering of those years and his exertions almost killed him. It was natural that as a result of the Famine an inquiry should have been instituted into the working of the Irish Poor Law, natural also that Larcom should have been appointed Chief Commissioner to conduct the inquiry. He also presided over various Boundary Commissions, and when he became Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Works in 1850 all the unions and electoral districts of Ireland were remodelled in accordance with their recommendations.

Even this is by no means a complete account of Larcom's public services, and with such a record and such encyclopædic knowledge of Irish conditions it was almost inevitable that when the post of Under Secretary for Ireland fell vacant in 1853 it should have been given to him. Some idea of the esteem in which Larcom was held is conveyed by the fact that the office was for the first time made permanent and non-political, especially so that he might retain it. He did so through six administrations and in the sixteen years of his tenure it became a saying amongst the people that the effective government of Ireland was in the hands of "Larcom and the police." The political events of that period are not in question here; so far as social and economic conditions are concerned, Larcom undoubtedly spared no effort to improve the state of the people as far as was in his power. With the heritage of the Famine and the defective state of the land laws the task was an immense one, which required more radical measures than any executive could take of itself. Yet on balance Larcom's period of office was one of material advancement in Ireland.

The responsibilities of his position were very heavy and inevitably left him with little time for the literary and historical work which so greatly interested him. It is not surprising to find, therefore, that although he remained a Vice-President until his death he contributed only one paper to the Statistical Society—his "Address at the Conclusion

of the Third Session,"¹ which, though erroneous in some of its predictions, was yet an intelligent and careful survey of the population and resources of Ireland before and after the Famine.

Before his retirement from the Under-Secretaryship in 1868 Larcom had become a K.C.B. and risen to the rank of Lieutenant-General. He spent his last years in England, compiling with his invariable thoroughness the records of events in his own time in Ireland, which formed the numerous volumes which he bequeathed to the Statistical Society.² Few men in their seventies would have the energy to complete such a heavy task; few men would have the disinterested concern to ensure that posterity should have, not their own views of their period, but the full factual materials for writing its history. Indeed these volumes are a monument to Larcom's character—typical of an upright man who carried out any task he set himself regardless of the effort involved, who was never content merely in doing his duty, but only in doing it superlatively well.

WILLIAM NEILSON HANCOCK (1820-1888).

Although Hancock was never a famous man he was a remarkable one, and deserves special consideration in any account of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland since he was its real founder and its moving spirit for the first thirty-five years of its existence.

Born at Lisburn in 1820, he entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1838. At first a student of mathematics, he turned after graduation to law and Political Economy, two subjects which determined the character of his life work. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1844 and was elected Whately Professor of Political Economy in Trinity College, Dublin in 1846. His first published work showed a characteristic combination of his two fields of activity; this was "The Tenant-right of Ulster Considered Economically," which appeared in 1845, giving an economic interpretation of the evidence of his elder brother, John, Lord Lurgan's agent, before the Landlord and Tenant Commission.

Hancock had the distinction of holding two Chairs simultaneously for, while he remained Whately Professor until 1851, he was also Professor of Jurisprudence and Political

¹ *Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society*, vol. ii (June, 1850).

² See above, *History of the Society*, pp. 32 and 33.

Economy at Queen's College, Belfast, from its opening in 1849 until 1853. At this period he had almost withdrawn from practice at the Bar to devote himself to social and economic studies; but he did not become an academic economist. Whately's suggestion to Hancock that he should devote his lectures to considering the application of economic principles to the case of Ireland¹ seems to have had a profound effect on the latter's career. "The orthodox doctrines of political economy if applied rigidly in Ireland would, he early saw, lead to startling results. He set himself to reconcile the tenets of the economist with the needs of the country. This he called 'Applied Political Economy'."² It is in a sense regrettable that Hancock thus came to devote himself exclusively to the practical side of economic affairs, for he had very considerable ability as a theorist.³ But from the standpoint of Ireland, and more particularly the Statistical Society, it brought no small advantage.

It would seem to have been largely this new direction of his interests which led Hancock to found the Dublin Statistical Society in 1847 and the Belfast Social Inquiry Society in 1851. In part at least it was this same influence which caused the metamorphosis in 1853 from Professor Hancock, the economist, to Dr. Hancock, the statistician and public servant. His first task in this capacity was as Secretary to the Dublin University Commission, a post which he filled whilst still a Professor, between 1851 and 1853. Shortly afterwards he held the same office on the Endowed Schools (Ireland) Commission, which reported in 1858. Thereafter he held a series of public offices and was the author of numerous official reports, using his legal and economic training to the fullest advantage.

Hancock acted as Clerk of the Custody of Papers in matters of Idiots and Lunatics in Court of Chancery from 1855 to 1858 and again from 1859 to 1866. He was Secretary of the English and Irish Law and Chancery Commission in 1861 and of the Irish Admiralty Commission in 1864, whilst in 1867-8 the Minutes of the Statistical Society inform us that "Dr. Hancock was absent during the entire of the Session, engaged in public business." He was, in fact, visiting Belgium

¹ See above History of the Society, p. 2.

² W. H. Dodd, K.C., in *Belfast Literary Society, 1801-1901*; Historical Sketch with Memoirs of some distinguished Members, (Belfast, 1902) pp. 106-7.

³ For a justification of this view, see the present writer's paper *Trinity College, Dublin, and the Theory of Value, 1832-1863, Economica*, August 1945, pp. 145-6.

to study its railway system in connection with his work as Secretary to the Railways (Ireland) Commission. Elected a Queen's Counsel in 1880 he subsequently became Keeper of Records of the Irish Land Commission in 1881-1882, and Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper from 1882 to 1884. This was his last public post; ill-health compelled his retirement some years before his death in 1888.

In the decade 1863-73 he had the task of collecting and compiling the 'Judicial and Criminal Statistics of Ireland' and in subsequent years continued to contribute an annual report to preface the returns. During this period also he submitted frequent reports, statistical and otherwise, on special aspects of the Irish economic situation—such as his "Report on the Supposed Progressive Decline of Irish Prosperity" (1862), "Report on the Landlord and Tenant Question in Ireland, from 1800 till 1866; with an Appendix, containing a Report on the Question from 1853 till 1859" (1866), "Report on the Statistics of Savings Invested in Ireland, etc., 1860-72" (1873). The two volumes on the Brehon Laws, edited by Hancock for the Commissioners of the Publication of the Ancient Laws and Institutes of Ireland, are also noteworthy amongst his many published works.

This brief account of Hancock's activities makes it possible to appreciate the statement of his close friend and colleague, John Kells Ingram:—"His life was a useful and a noble one."¹ His purpose was social improvement, and he devoted himself to it with remarkable and unremitting energy. A glance at the list of his papers, in the Author Index of this volume, will prove that he was an extraordinarily prolific writer, and whenever he saw a social problem, however great or small, he was always ready to analyse it and suggest a solution.

It is true that he combined his zeal for reform with a considerable degree of conservatism. He believed in the efficacy of *laissez-faire* with a faith more ardent than that of most nineteenth-century economists.² For Hancock *laissez-faire* was an active, not a passive, doctrine. He considered that, in Ireland at least, progress was hampered by outmoded legislation and advocated the removal of

¹ J. K. Ingram: "Memoir of the late William Neilson Hancock, LL.D., Q.C." *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. ix, p. 393.

² Ingram suggests that this was modified in later years. *Op. cit.*, p. 387.

unnecessary restrictions; this was the whole burden of his influential "Impediments to the Prosperity of Ireland."¹

Hancock retained a perennial interest in the Irish land question, as was natural in one who had once been a land agent and whose father and brother had held the same position, and he had considerable influence in the drafting of the Land Act of 1870. He was a consistent advocate of the general recognition of tenant-right, and thought that in this, rather than in peasant proprietorship, the ultimate solution of the land question would be found. Another set of problems which always interested him were "those which arise out of the conception of the family as the unit of society."² He steadfastly opposed all schemes of poor relief which involved severance of family ties, and he was no friend to schemes for wider employment of women. Thus in some respects the ultimate solution of social problems differed much from that which Hancock advocated; but he had the sense of justice and lively sympathy with suffering which marks the true reformer, and of the sincerity of his desire for improvement and the value of his work in its time there can be no doubt.

As has been suggested, he was almost ideally equipped for the work which he did. With practical experience as lawyer and land agent he combined sound economic knowledge and statistical ability of no mean order. Though he made no contributions to the theory of statistics, as compiler and interpreter of data he was most able—"careful, intrepid, and scrupulously honest" is the judgment of one of his assistants.³

To the Statistical Society he gave invaluable service and his position in it was, and remains, unique. When he ceased to hold the Whately Chair he offered to resign the Secretaryship of the Society, the office he took upon himself when he founded it, but he was prevailed upon to retain it and did so until 1881. During those 34 years he was constantly active in and on behalf of the Society. He kept its Minutes in his vigorous hasty handwriting which 'was undecipherable save to a few.'⁴ He acted for the Society on deputations and sub-committees, making suggestions for its improvement. When changes were proposed, when special social problems were debated, it was almost always 'on the motion of Dr. Hancock.'

¹ London, 1850.

² Ingram, *op. cit.*, p. 389.

³ W. H. Dodd, *op. cit.*, p. 107.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 106.

He was a frequent contributor to the Transactions, especially in the early years, and his papers contained little that was trivial. In the impressive account of "What the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland has effected (1847-1888)"¹ at least seven of the reforms are directly traceable to Hancock's papers, and his influence is evident in many others. He was always at work on some problem and if the Council found that there was 'no paper for next night of meeting' Hancock could be relied upon to fill the gap.

When he ultimately sought to resign the Secretaryship in 1881, his fellow officers prevailed upon him, apparently not without some difficulty, to accept the well-deserved position of President. He retained it for only one session, but remained as Vice-President until his death. It would be something of an injustice to his many active and distinguished associates to say that in his time Hancock *was* the Statistical Society, but he was a vital force in it. Certainly none so completely followed its aims and fulfilled its objects—"the promotion of the study of Statistics, Jurisprudence and Social and Economic Science."

JAMES ANTHONY LAWSON (1817-1887).

Lawson was one of that group of brilliant young lawyers who occupied the Whately Chair in the early years of its establishment. He graduated in Trinity College as B.A. in 1838 and LL.B. in 1841 and held the Whately Professorship from 1840 to 1845. He was thus Hancock's immediate predecessor and it was natural that he should be closely associated with him in the foundation of the Statistical Society.² While he had the distinction of being the first man ever to read a paper before it and shared the duties of Secretary with Hancock for seven years, Lawson never devoted himself to it with the wholehearted energy of his colleague, for his career followed a different path.

As an economist, Lawson, if not outstanding, was able and possessed of some original ideas. Ingram accorded him a place in his "History of Political Economy" chiefly because he asserted in opposition to Senior that Political Economy was a science "*avide des faits*."³ Lawson's criticism of the Malthusian doctrine of population on the ground that higher standards of living would tend to reduce rather than

¹ *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. viii, p. 146.

² See above, History of the Society, chap. i.

³ Ingram: *History of Political Economy* (Edinburgh, 1888), p. 142.
Lawson: *Five Lectures on Political Economy* (London, 1844), p. 9.

increase population is more noteworthy, however. This opposition to Malthusianism is clearly shown in his Statistical Society paper "The Over-Population Fallacy considered" and his earlier contribution to the Transactions "On Commercial Panics" contains some valuable observations, if no complete explanation of those phenomena. Lawson's later papers have a strongly legal bias, for though he first combined Political Economy with law, in later life he gave his attention entirely to the latter, reaching high office in the legal profession.

In 1857 Lawson became a Queen's Counsel and in the same year attempted unsuccessfully to enter Parliament as member for Dublin University. The following year saw him acting as legal adviser to the Crown in Ireland and he was appointed Solicitor-General for Ireland in 1861 and Attorney-General in 1865. From that time until 1868 he was Member of Parliament for Portarlington. Defeated in the General Election of December, 1868, he abandoned the attempt to make a political career for himself and returned to the law, to become a member of the judicial bench. He was fourth Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland from 1868 until 1882; in 1870 he became an English Privy Councillor, and at the same time the Statistical Society nominated him for their Presidency, which he retained for two sessions. It was during this period that he put before the Society his plan for the codification of English Law, which was introduced into Parliament as a bill by Heron and Pim.¹

In 1882 Lawson was made a judge in the Queen's Bench division and he incurred considerable enmity for acting as judge at political trials in the days of the Land League. An attempt to assassinate him was made in 1882 by Patrick Delaney, who was afterwards one of those accused in connection with the Phoenix Park murders. Lawson escaped, and continued to carry out his duties with an unswerving courage which compelled admiration.

Though not amongst its most famous or active members, Lawson was for forty years a consistent supporter of the Statistical Society, and he combined in himself the legal and economic training and the enthusiasm for social reform which were the real foundations of the early success of the Society.

¹ Report of the Council at the Opening of the Twenty-Sixth Session, *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. vi, p. 177.

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JAMES ANTHONY LAWSON,
PRESIDENT, 1870-1872.

JOHN KELLS INGRAM (1823-1907).

It must frankly be acknowledged that to write a biographical sketch of John Kells Ingram is to attempt the impossible, for so varied and brilliant were his achievements that nothing less than a full length book could do justice to them. But unfortunately there is no comprehensive biography of Ingram, and it would be unthinkable to exclude him from the list of those who have enhanced the reputation of this Society.

Ingram, a boy of Ulster descent, entered Trinity College, Dublin, at the early age of fourteen, and graduated B.A. in 1843, in which year he also made himself famous by his poem "The Memory of the Dead." He had already shown great promise in mathematics and classics, and some of his early papers dealt with geometrical research. It was on this subject that he addressed the Royal Irish Academy when he became a member in 1847, having been elected a Fellow of Trinity College in 1846. Mathematics, however, was only one of Ingram's many interests; he was already thinking on social problems when the Dublin Statistical Society was founded, and he gave it ready and willing support from the outset. He was a member of the original Council, and served for ten years, acting as Secretary from 1855 until 1857, when he became a Vice-President.

Although he was very active in the administration of the Society at this early period, Ingram contributed nothing to its proceedings—that was to come later. Meanwhile he was developing his scholarship in many directions, filling a succession of offices in Trinity College with equal distinction. He became Erasmus Smith's Professor of Oratory in 1852 and commenced to teach English Literature in 1855 when that subject was added to the Chair, contributing not a little to Shakespearean criticism in later years. Withal Ingram found no difficulty in filling the Regius chair of Greek when it fell vacant in 1866 and preparing classical papers for *Hermathena*, the University periodical which he founded during his tenure of this Professorship. He was equally successful when elected Librarian in 1879, showing a thorough command of the technique of librarianship as well as a scholar's ability to interpret and edit the rare manuscripts in his care. His great service to the University came to an end only in 1899, when he resigned the position of Vice-Provost.

Before that time Ingram had secured a European reputation as an economist, which had its origin in his work for the Statistical Society. His economic writings were deeply

influenced by two closely related factors—his strong humanitarian sympathies and his adherence to the sociological doctrines of Auguste Comte. So far as this Society was concerned, the former was of most importance, and it seems probable that, with Hancock, Ingram was largely responsible for influencing the Society towards social inquiry rather than pure statistical studies. Certainly it is noteworthy that he did not begin to contribute papers until after the reorganisation of 1862 which extended the objects of the Society to include "all questions of Social Science."¹ Ingram's papers were not numerous, but every one of them was notable, alike for content, style, and logical clearness. The first was his 'Considerations on the State of Ireland,' a remarkably well balanced survey, which attracted much attention at the time.² This was closely followed in 1864 by "A Comparison between the English and Irish Poor Laws with respect to the Conditions of Relief," which combined a development of his suggestion made in the earlier address, that the two Poor Laws should be completely assimilated, with a very able study of the then existing administration of relief.

More than a decade elapsed before Ingram spoke before the Society again, on another aspect of the same problem. His 1875 address on "The Organisation of Charity and the Boarding out of Pauper Children" was delivered when the Society's reforming activities were at their height, and led to the formation of the important Charity Organisation Committee.³ Again, it was a paper with a sequel—"Additional Facts and Arguments on the Boarding-Out of Pauper Children," read in 1876.

Important as these papers were at the time, they have not the permanent significance of the two others which Ingram never read before the Society, but which were accepted in lieu of Opening Addresses during his tenure of the Presidency in the years 1878-80. These were "The Present Position and Prospects of Political Economy" (Address to Section F of the British Association, 1878) and "Work and the Workman" (Address to the Trades Union Congress, 1880.) The first, in which he declared that "the study of the

¹ This is pointed out in C. Litton Falkiner's "Memoir of the late John Kells Ingram," *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. xi, p. 105. (Also separately printed, Dublin, 1907). The reader is referred to this for a comprehensive summary and criticism of Ingram's papers, as well as for an excellent account of the early years of the Society.

² Some account of the content and position of this paper is given above, *History of the Society*, p. 23.

³ See above, *History of the Society*, pp. 31-32.

economic phenomena of society ought to be systematically combined with that of the other aspects of social existence" and condemned the unduly abstract method of contemporary economics, showed clearly the influence of the Positivist conception of economic studies as a branch of sociology. The work produced a most favourable reaction, particularly amongst the members of the German Historical School, and placed Ingram in the front rank of English economists.

"Work and the Workman" shows the practical application of Ingram's sociological ideas. In this address he emphasised that questions of social welfare necessarily involved moral considerations and that this applied to the particular case of the position of the working class. Employer-employee relationships could not be based solely on 'the law of the market,' and the amelioration of the position of the worker would require not merely adequate wages but also education and congenial domestic circumstances.

After he resigned from the Presidency, Ingram did not give any further papers to the Statistical Society, except his "Memoir of the late William Neilson Hancock,"¹ but his main reputation as an economist rests on works written after 1880—chiefly his "History of Political Economy" (1888) and "History of Slavery and Serfdom" (1895), both amplifications from articles in the ninth edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica." The former, a pioneer work of its kind, achieved enormous success and was translated into ten different languages. The manner in which Ingram linked up the development of economic ideas with the philosophical and social background was then quite novel, and even to-day his work may be ranked amongst the best histories of economic thought, despite its methodological bias.

Ingram's last years were spent in expounding the religion and philosophy of Positivism, and he was still writing ably on this topic after he had passed his eightieth year. His death in 1907 terminated an amazing career of sustained brilliance, and broke the last link which the Statistical Society had with its original officers. During his long connection with the Society he had worked hard for its success and done much to secure recognition for it. It was no small advantage to the Statistical Society to have numbered one who was "probably the best educated man in the world"² amongst its founders.

¹ Read in 1889. (*Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. ix, p. 384.)

² This tribute was paid to Ingram by Dr. R. Y. Tyrrell in an appreciation which he wrote for the *Dublin Evening Mail* of May 1st, 1907.

JAMES HAUGHTON (1795-1873).

Haughton was born in Carlow, of a Quaker family, and entered business at the age of fifteen, finally establishing himself in 1819 as a corn merchant in Dublin, with his brother as partner. During the eighteen-thirties he became seriously interested in the social questions of the day and thenceforward was continually active as a philanthropist and reformer. Two problems in which he took an early, but lasting, interest were intemperance and slavery. He was prominent in the movement for abolition of slavery in the West Indies in 1838, going to London as a delegate of the Hibernian Anti-Slavery Society. In the same year he began to write to the Press on the subject of Temperance, became a total abstainer in 1839, and remained all his life a convinced advocate of legislative restriction on the sale of alcohol. His activities in these two causes brought him into contact with Father Mathew and Daniel O'Connell, to both of whom he gave strong support and respect. Temperance and anti-slavery were not, however, the only causes with which Haughton was associated; he also held pacifist views and advocated abolition of capital punishment, expressing his opinions on these questions in his letters and pamphlets.

Haughton was thus rather different from most of the original members of the Statistical Society—at least those who took any active part in its early work. He had no academic training or professional concern with statistics or social investigation, only a disinterested desire for reform, but that was sufficient to make him a valuable and enthusiastic supporter of the Society. He was not at first an officer, but was soon elected to the Council and became a Vice-President in 1860, retaining the office until his death. He was a constant attender at meetings and a frequent contributor to the Transactions; only the indefatigable Hancock (who was his son-in-law) produced a greater number of papers. Of Haughton's, as might be expected, the majority dealt with the question of temperance, and several others with slavery, but he also made contributions on education, poor laws, land tenure, co-operation, and free trade. In the latter he was a strong believer, advocating the abolition even of duties for revenue only and their replacement by general direct taxation, while on the land question he spoke in favour of legislative interference to give tenants security and compensation for improvements. In addition to his appearances at the Statistical Society, he took a prominent part in the Irish meetings of the Social Science Congress and British Association.

Haughton was a notable example of the nineteenth-century humanitarian. He believed completely in the efficacy of reform within the existing social system and had the conviction that reason would ultimately secure the triumph of liberal principles. Yet liberal though he was, he was utterly uncompromising, prepared to sacrifice anything to principles which he conceived right. Many of his views might now be regarded as narrow, but he possessed qualities which deserve respect—sincerity, honesty and public spirit. Good citizens like James Haughton, who were anxious to inquire into social conditions and seek means for their improvement, gave the Statistical Society its *raison d'être*.

CONSULT:—Samuel Haughton: "Memoir of James Haughton. With extracts from his private and published letters." (Dublin and London, 1877).

DENIS CAULFIELD HERON (1824-1881).

The combination of legal and economic training so frequent and fruitful in nineteenth-century Ireland, is again exemplified in the case of Heron, but, like Lawson, he was predominantly a lawyer.

The son of a Dublin clerk, Heron entered Trinity College in 1840, became a sizar in 1842, and qualified for a scholarship in 1843, but was refused election as a Catholic. Heron appealed to the Visitors of the University, and although he was unsuccessful, "The Case of Denis Caulfield Heron, Appellant, against the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, Respondents"¹ in which Longfield, Butt, and O'Hagan were retained, became something of a *cause célèbre*. In 1847, two years after his graduation, Heron published his "Constitutional History of the University of Dublin" in which he demanded reform of the whole position of Catholics in the University. In the following year he was called to the Irish Bar, and in 1849 was appointed Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy in the newly-opened Queen's College, Galway, a post which he held for ten years.

Heron was an original member of the Dublin Statistical Society, and was elected one of the first four Barrington Lecturers in 1849. He became a member of the Council in 1850, was a Vice-President from 1871 until his death, and contributed to the Society's Transactions throughout his

¹ *Irish Law Reports*, vol. ix, p. 41. There are also private reports; one by J. F. Waller (Dublin 1846), another by Macdonnell and Hancock.

career. His two most significant papers were "Historical Statistics of Ireland" and "Ireland in 1864," which raised a considerable controversy at the time,¹ but he read several others on the land question. A strong advocate of tenant-right as a basic reform, he showed himself as a supporter of the Land Act of 1870 in a paper of 1871. His last contribution, in 1872, was an interesting account of "A Visit to Russia" which he made as the Society's delegate to the eighth International Statistical Congress at St. Petersburg.

After he left his Chair at Queen's College, Galway, Heron devoted himself almost entirely to his practice at the Bar. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1860, and in the same year published his "Introduction to the History of Jurisprudence," which was followed in 1873 by a "Principles of Jurisprudence." He was made a Bencher of King's Inns in 1872 and third Serjeant-at-law in 1880. Aside from this, he was Member of Parliament for County Tipperary in the years 1870-74, defeating Charles Kickham by a very narrow margin for the seat.

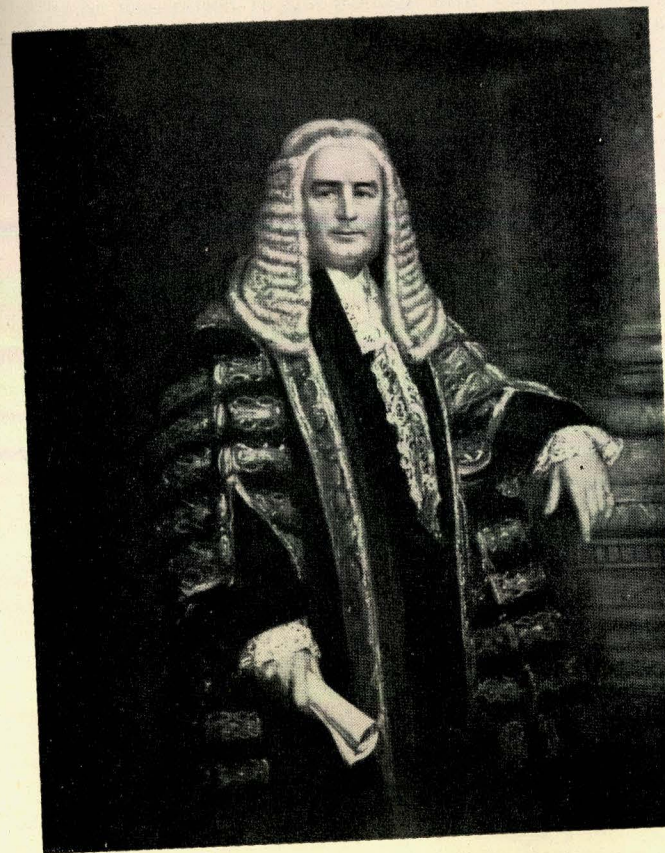
It seems probable that Heron would have been given a place on the Judicial Bench, and also been offered the Presidency of the Statistical Society, but he was drowned in a fishing accident on the Corrib at the early age of fifty-seven.

THOMAS O'HAGAN (1812-1885), FIRST BARON O'HAGAN OF TULLAHOGUE.

Throughout its existence the Statistical Society has numbered amongst its members many able and eminent lawyers, but few have been more distinguished than Thomas O'Hagan. He began his career at the Irish Bar in 1836, having studied first at King's Inns, Dublin, and then at Gray's Inn, London. Practising on the North-Eastern circuit, O'Hagan took up residence in Newry and edited the *Newry Examiner* from 1836 to 1840. At the Bar he soon gained a reputation as an orator, and was appointed Assistant-Barrister for the county Longford, being given the same office in county Dublin ten years later. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1849, and was promoted to the offices of third Serjeant-at-law in 1858, Solicitor-General in 1860, and Attorney-General in 1861. These preferments brought unpopularity with them, for O'Hagan had now to prosecute where he might formerly have defended, and it was only against violent opposition

¹ For comment on these papers, see above, History of the Society, pp. 23-24.

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THOMAS O'HAGAN,
PRESIDENT, 1867-1870.

that he became Member of Parliament for Tralee when that seat fell vacant in 1862. In Parliament he was active in seeking Irish reforms, but his career was brief, for in 1865 he was appointed a judge of the Irish Court of Common Pleas. On the Bench he fully justified the satisfaction generally expressed at his appointment, and when Gladstone came to power in 1868 he honoured O'Hagan with the high office of Lord Chancellor of Ireland, which he held for six years. In 1870 he was raised to the peerage with the title of first Baron O'Hagan of Tullahogue and spoke for the Government in the Debate on the Land Bill in the House of Lords.

O'Hagan was an original member of the Statistical Society, but, as might be expected, he had little opportunity to take an active part in it. However, his interest in social questions was very real and when the Social Science Congress met in Dublin in 1861, he presided over the 'Punishment and Reformation' section, which dealt with topics which he had made his particular concern. In 1865, he opened the nineteenth session of the Statistical Society as Vice-President with an address in which he summarised reforms already achieved and pointed out directions in which further improvement was required—notably in regard to the jury system. In 1869, O'Hagan succeeded Longfield in the Presidency, and his address in 1870 included a full explanation of the Land Act of 1870 whose value, he held, "could scarcely be over-estimated."

It was only on such occasions that O'Hagan appeared before the Society; he was not one of those who drew attention to the need for reform, but one who helped to enact the reforms, as his work in regard to the lunacy law, local government and the jury system indicated while he was Lord Chancellor. He had a great interest in the improvement of education, and gave strong support to the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, becoming an original member of the Intermediate Education Board in 1878. He also supported the foundation of the Royal University, of which he was Vice-Chancellor from 1880 until his death.

Lord O'Hagan had the distinction of being nominated Lord Chancellor of Ireland a second time in 1880, but failing health necessitated his retirement in November 1881. Just prior to this he had delivered his address as President of the Social Science Congress at its meeting in Dublin.¹ This, together with the discourse on "Economic and Statistical Inquiry" which he gave as President of Section F of the

¹ See above, History of the Society, pp. 33.

British Association at its Belfast meeting in 1874, is reproduced in the volume of "Occasional Papers and Addresses"¹ which he published after his retirement.

CONSULT:—O. J. Burke: "History of the Lord Chancellors of Ireland" (Dublin, 1879).

WILLIAM EDWARD HEARN (1826–1888).

Hearn provides yet another example of that display of a wide variety of talents which seems to have been almost typical of the early members of the Statistical Society. At Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated in 1847, he was a brilliant classical student, but also read the course in Logic and Ethics, which then included political economy. After graduation, he studied law and was called to the Irish Bar in 1853, but before this he had been appointed first Professor of Greek in Queen's College, Galway, in 1849.

This early prominence in academic life led to Hearn's being offered a Chair in the new University of Melbourne in 1854. He accepted the post, which bore the formidable title of Professor of Modern History and Literature, Political Economy and Logic, and not merely discharged its duties but taught classics as well after his arrival in Australia in 1856. After a short period, however, his scope was narrowed to Modern History and Political Economy, which he taught for some twenty years, publishing his best known work: "Plutology; or the theory of the efforts to satisfy Human Wants" in 1864.

In 1873, Hearn became Dean of the Faculty of Law at Melbourne, which enabled him to resign his professorship and so evade the prohibition the University authorities had placed on holders of Chairs participating in politics. He was elected to the Legislative Council in 1878, and devoted himself principally to seeking a codification of the statutes of Victoria. In 1883 he became leader of the House and retained the office until his death, while for a period in 1886 he was Chancellor of Melbourne University. In teaching and writing in later years, Hearn was concerned more with legal than economic subjects.

Although Hearn's real career was that of an Australian professor he had made some mark in economic affairs before he left Ireland. He joined the Statistical Society in 1848, and was selected in the following year as one of the first Barrington Lecturers, which was a considerable tribute

¹ London, 1884.

to his abilities, as he was then only twenty-three years of age and quite unknown as a professional economist.

Hearn acted as Barrington Lecturer for four years, but only once read a paper before the Society—"On Cottier Rents," in 1851. However, his "Cassell Prize Essay on the Condition of Ireland"¹ gave further evidence of his interest in social and economic questions. In this he made a competent analysis of the causes of Irish distress, laying emphasis principally on the absence of manufactures and the consequent pressure on the supply of land. He followed Jonathan Pim² in advocating a regime of "free trade in land," with improvements secured to the tenants, as the most useful remedy.

From this it would appear that even had he remained in Ireland, Hearn would probably have made his reputation as an economist rather than a classical scholar, and might have taken a prominent place in the affairs of the Statistical Society.

CONSULT:—D. B. Copland: "W. E. Hearn: First Australian Economist." (Melbourne, 1935).

ALEXANDER THOM (1801–1879).

Amongst those whom John Kells Ingram induced to join the Dublin Statistical Society in its early days none did more to extend and popularise statistical information about Ireland than Alexander Thom, author and publisher of "Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory."

Thom was born and educated in Scotland but when his schooling was completed he came to Dublin to assist his father, Walter Thom, who was then acting as printer and editor of the *Dublin Journal*, a position which he had received from the Chief Secretary, Sir Robert Peel in 1813. The elder Thom, in addition to journalism, was the author of several historical and statistical works, chief amongst them his "History of Aberdeen."³ He became the proprietor of the *Dublin Journal* when Peel resigned the Chief Secretaryship.

¹ London and Dublin, 1851. The Cassell Prize of 200 guineas for an essay on this topic was awarded on the verdict of Hancock and Jonathan Pim.

² See Pim: *Condition and Prospects of Ireland* (Dublin, 1848), chapter 12.

³ Aberdeen, printed by D. Chalmers, 1811.

in 1817, but the paper lost popularity through political changes and collapsed shortly after his death in 1824.¹

So in 1825 Alexander Thom, who had inherited the paper, sold out its assets and set up as a general printer. After some difficult years, in 1833 he secured from Peel the contract for all Post Office printing in Ireland. Thomas Drummond, the able Under-Secretary and friend of Larcom (q.v.) gave Thom the execution of the printing for the Railway Commission in 1838. Prior to this the printing of all Royal Commissions in Ireland had been done in London, but Thom secured its complete transfer to Dublin.

From his printing of the "Post Office Directory" in 1835 Thom appears to have acquired the experience which led up to the first appearance of his own "Irish Almanac and Official Directory" in 1844. The work proved an immediate success and by 1850 it had superseded all its rivals. Its favourable progress was largely due to the fact that it included a large quantity of reliable and well arranged national and local statistics of Ireland. Thus it soon became not merely a directory, but a standard work of reference for anyone seeking information on the condition of Ireland, and as such had a wide circulation outside the country of its origin.

Thom enjoyed continued success as a printer and publisher for the rest of his life. He secured the printing of the official *Dublin Gazette* in 1851, and his career culminated in his appointment as Queen's Printer in Ireland in 1876. Throughout thirty-five years, however, his great interest continued to be the development and improvement of his Directory and the study of the Irish conditions which it so admirably summarised. He built up an excellent collection of works on Irish affairs, which is now in the possession of the National Library of Ireland. In 1860 and 1861 he published, for private circulation, "A Collection of Tracts and Treatises Illustrative of the Natural History, Antiquities, and Political and Social State of Ireland at Various Periods prior to the Present Century"—two volumes containing selections from noted writers on Ireland, including Petty and Berkeley.

In 1877 "Thom's Directory" appeared with the statement in the 'Advertisement' that "Mr. Thom regrets that his advancing years preclude him from continuing the great personal labour and anxiety attendant upon its annual issue." Until this time he had retained complete responsibility for the planning and supervision of the work, and he

¹ A fuller account of the circumstances is given by Mr. J. W. Hammond in his paper on "The Founder of 'Thom's Directory.'" *Dublin Historical Record*, vol. viii, No. 2, pp. 43-44.

never relaxed his standards. In these circumstances it was natural enough that he should never have contributed to the proceedings of the Statistical Society for "from the pressure of his engagements he dreaded the preparation of an address."¹ But Thom was a close friend of most of the leading members of the Society and they were fully aware that he was doing much to forward the objects for which it had been founded, even though he did not appear active within it.

The Council showed their appreciation of his services to Irish statistics by electing him a Vice-President in 1871. In return for this Thom, who could not spare time to work for the Society himself, presented 100 guineas to be used in the preparation of reports on Irish Jurisprudence, which were written by Robert Donnell, Constantine Molloy, William Mulholland, and William Graham Brooke.² Six years later, Thom was nominated by the Council for the Presidency, but reluctantly declined to accept the distinction on account of the continued pressure of his business affairs.³

When Thom died at the age of seventy-eight his friend Hancock said of him: "Historians in future years when treating of Irish affairs in the present century will add the name of Alexander Thom to the honoured list of trustworthy and able writers on Irish affairs."⁴ Although the history of Ireland in the latter part of the nineteenth century largely remains to be written, it is already certain that the prophecy was not a false one.

CONSULT:—Joseph W. Hammond: "The Founder of Thom's Directory" in *Dublin Historical Record*, vol. viii, No. 2 (March-May, 1946), pp. 41-56.

¹ Hancock: Obituary Notice of the late Alexander Thom, Esq., *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. viii, p. 7.

² See above, History of the Society, p. 30.

³ The graceful letter in which Thom refused the offer is reproduced in part in *Historical Memoirs*, p. 64. The last paragraph, which is there abbreviated, concludes as follows:—

" . . . and permit me to add that the honour which I now so unwillingly relinquish is the more appreciated that it comes through one to whom the Society and the Country owe so much.

Believe me, Dear Dr. Hancock,

Most truly yours,

ALEX. THOM."

⁴ Hancock, *op. cit.*, p. 8.

RICHARD HUSSEY WALSH (1825-1862).

Walsh first became connected with the Statistical Society in 1850, when he was appointed to a Barrington Lectureship. He had graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1847, with high honours in mathematics and physics, and his qualifications would have fitted him for a Fellowship, but as a Catholic he was then precluded from sitting for one. The Whately Chair was a possible alternative and Walsh took up the study of Political Economy with a view to competing at the next examination for the Professorship. His first success came when he won the Prize in Political Economy in the University in 1850. It was this which led up to his being made a Barrington Lecturer, and after the examination in 1851 he succeeded Hancock as Whately Professor.

On his taking up the duties of Professor, Walsh was made one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Statistical Society and held the office for six years. He acted as Deputy for Hancock in the Chair of Political Economy at Queen's College, Belfast, during the winter of 1853, but his academic career ended with the conclusion of his term of office at Dublin University in 1856. He was then appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Endowed Schools (Ireland) Commission and this led on to his nomination as Superintendent of the Government Schools in the Mauritius. He entered on his duties in 1857, and before leaving Ireland was elected an Honorary Member of the Statistical Society.

In Mauritius his enthusiasm and ability as an administrator drew attention to him, and the Governor appointed him to a Commission established to inquire into the whole civil service of the island, in addition to his other duties. Walsh was also made responsible for the Census of Mauritius which was taken in 1861, and carried out the work with great ability. Shortly after its completion he was taken ill and died within a few days.

During his brief career as an economist Walsh had established a good reputation. His best known work is his "Elementary Treatise on Metallic Currency"¹ which was something of a pioneer volume on the subject. In it he gave a useful account of the principles of coinage, the influence of metallic money variations on the general level of prices, and the working of the foreign exchanges, gaining the praise of J. S. Mill for the quality of his exposition. Writing at a time when gold discoveries threatened a severe depreciation of the currency, Walsh advocated the establishment of a silver

¹ Dublin, 1853.

standard in place of gold, with the issue of additional notes to avoid inconvenience in larger payments, but, admitting the possibility of a depreciation of silver, he gave his support to the plans for a tabular standard then being developed.¹ These proposals are contained in a paper "Observations on the Gold Crisis" which Walsh gave to the British Association at its Glasgow Meeting in 1855, and which is reproduced in the *Journal of the Statistical Society*²; they had, however, been previously developed in the "Treatise on Metallic Currency."

Walsh contributed a number of other papers to the Statistical Society and the British Association, but these contain little that is of more than historical interest now. While he sometimes dealt with general social questions his most usual subject was contemporary financial problems, and it was as a writer on monetary topics that he was chiefly recognised, contributing frequently to the *Economist* in that capacity. His career was unfortunately too short for him to establish himself as a monetary theorist, but there can be little doubt that he possessed the ability to do so.

THOMAS EDWARD CLIFFE LESLIE (1826-1882).

Leslie was one of the few members of the Statistical Society who have been given a recognised place in the history of economic thought, and it is remarkable that Ingram and Cairnes, the two economists with whom his name is most usually coupled in that history, were his compatriots and fellow-members. Like them, he was a student of Trinity College, and graduated with a gold medal in Ethics and Logic in 1847. He took the degree of LL.B. at Dublin in 1851 and, having studied at Lincoln's Inn, was called to the English Bar in 1857. Prior to this he had been appointed Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy at Queen's College, Belfast, in 1853, and he retained this position until his death, although he normally resided in London.

Leslie was a pupil of Sir Henry Maine, and learnt from him the use of the historical method in Jurisprudence, whilst he also absorbed the sociological doctrines of Comte, although, unlike Ingram, he never accepted the Positivist philosophy in its entirety. These two influences largely determined the character of his economic work; from the outset of his

¹ On this see Fisher: *Stabilised Money* (London, 1935), chapter ii, section 1.

² *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. i, p. 175.

career he opposed the methods of the later classical school and devoted himself largely to inductive studies. His principal work was his "Land Systems and Industrial Economy of England, Ireland and Continental Countries"¹ the outcome of extensive travel and observation, but he developed his economic position largely in periodical articles, most of which were reprinted in his "Essays in Political and Moral Philosophy."² Following Longe,³ he refuted the wages fund doctrine in an article, "Political Economy and the Rate of Wages," in *Fraser's Magazine* of July, 1868, but perhaps the most important of his essays was "On the Philosophical Method of Political Economy" which appeared in *Hermathena* for 1876. Ingram attached great importance to this article,⁴ in which Leslie showed the inadequacy of the classical assumption that "the desire of wealth" was the sole motive for economic activity and criticised the deductive method for such over-simplification of economic phenomena.

No doubt because of his residence in London, Cliffe Leslie did not use the Statistical Society as a medium for this later development of his economic ideas. He became connected with the Society in 1851, acted as Barrington Lecturer in 1852 and 1853 and as one of the Honorary Secretaries from 1857 to 1863. All his papers were read between 1851 and 1855, the most important being the two on the "Progress and Present Condition of Mechanics' Institutions" which had some influence on the introduction of Corresponding Societies as part of the organisation of the Statistical Society.⁵

Cliffe Leslie's economic work was fragmentary and it is a standard criticism of it to say that it was negative rather than positive in character. There is truth in this, and indeed it can be said of Leslie and Ingram alike that while they were often sweeping in their condemnation of the classical system, they never offered any general explanation of economic phenomena to be put in its place. In this respect they perhaps overestimated the significance of the methodological criticisms they made, which indicated the need for modification rather than wholesale destruction of the classical edifice. Yet this does not alter the fact that the criticism was valid and necessary and in addition it must be said of Leslie that

¹ London, 1870.

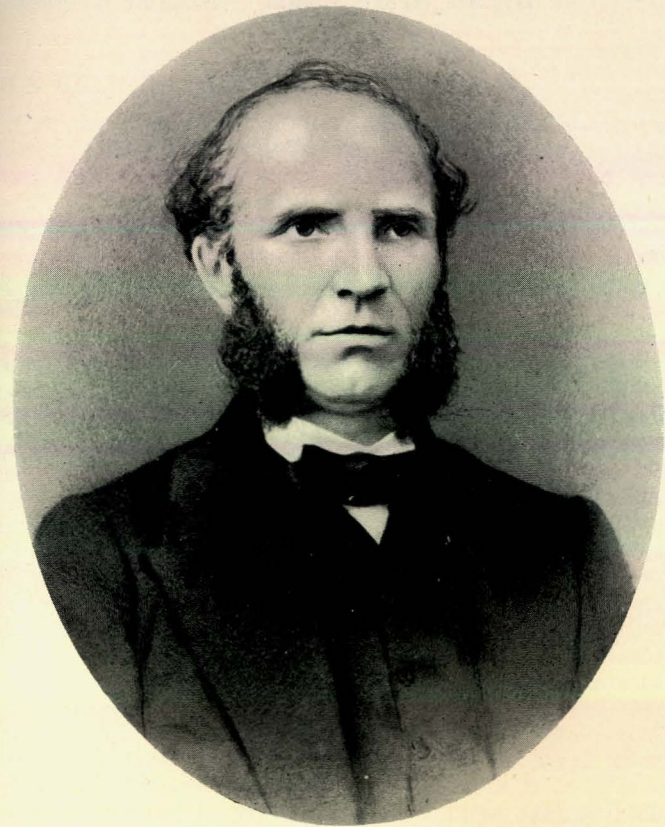
² Dublin, 1879. Second Edition under the title *Essays in Political Economy*, Dublin, 1888.

³ F. D. Longe: *A Refutation of the Wage Fund Theory of Modern Political Economy*, (London, 1866).

⁴ See Ingram: *History of Political Economy* (first edition), p. 228.

⁵ See above, *History of the Society*, p. 11.

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JOHN ELLIOTT CAIRNES,
HON. SECRETARY, 1857-1862.

he made a thorough-going and useful attempt to apply the inductive method which he preached. This, taken in conjunction with the clarity and style which distinguished all his writings, is more than enough to entitle him to the high place which he was accorded in the ranks of nineteenth-century economists.

CONSULT :—L. L. Price : "A Short History of Political Economy in England" (London, 1891), chapter v.

JOHN ELLIOTT CAIRNES (1823-1875).

Of all the economists who have belonged to the Statistical Society, Cairnes is indisputably the one whose name is most widely known, but the facts of his career are rather less familiar. When his schooling was completed he spent some years as a clerk in his father's brewery at Drogheda, but developed a desire to attend the University. His father was opposed to this, but made him an allowance which enabled him to enter Trinity College in 1842. After graduation he took various posts and engaged in journalism for a time, before he finally turned his attention to Political Economy. He became a member of the Statistical Society in 1853, and acted as Barrington Lecturer in 1854 and 1858. In 1856 he decided to compete in the examination for the Whately Chair, and was elected Professor. Although he was called to the Irish Bar in the following year, from that time forward he became entirely an academic economist. In 1859 he was appointed Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy at Queen's College, Galway, in succession to Heron, and in 1866 he became Professor at University College, London. Ill-health compelled him to resign this position in 1872, for he had become the victim of a rheumatic disease which ultimately reduced him to a state of almost complete paralysis some time before his death. Cairnes endured this affliction with remarkable courage and retained his intellectual power to the last, completing much of his best work after the disease had taken firm hold.

As an economist, Cairnes was the complete antithesis of Leslie and Ingram, the staunch upholder of the principles which they attacked. He is customarily and rightly cited as the last exponent of the strict classical system, developing and re-stating the doctrines of Mill. His "Character and Logical Method of Political Economy"¹ was an elegant

¹ London, 1857. 2nd edition, 1875.

statement and defence of the deductive method; "Some Leading Principles of Political Economy newly expounded,"¹ which is usually regarded as the full and final statement of his ideas, contained little that was novel. Certainly, Cairnes was not receptive of new ideas; he maintained the wage-fund doctrine even after Mill had abandoned it and could see little of value in the work of Jevons. Yet this weakness was his strength in another respect; it enabled him to set out with striking conviction the principles which he upheld, and he had a power of abstract thought which made his statement of the older economic theory completely definitive. Perhaps these qualities showed to better advantage in less purely theoretical work, as exemplified by "The Slave Power"² which appeared during the American Civil War, and strongly influenced public opinion against the slave owners.

Cairnes read several important papers to the Statistical Society, of which he was an Honorary Secretary from 1857 until 1862. Notable amongst them was his "Examination into the Principles of Currency involved in the Bank Charter Act of 1844."³ In this he gave a most lucid and able criticism of the Act, remarkable in some respects for its accord with modern views.⁴ As a representative of the Society he presented an excellent essay to the British Association in 1858 on "Laws according to which a Depreciation of the Precious Metals consequent upon an Increase of Supply takes place,"⁵ seeking to prove that though the gold discoveries would lead to a rise in prices it would not be uniform, and predicting with considerable accuracy the course which it would take.

After he left the Whately Chair Cairnes ceased to have any active connection with the Statistical Society, and indeed in his later years he was much more a figure of English rather than Irish economic circles. Although he was not so closely concerned in the development of the Society as some of his

¹ London, 1874.

² *The Slave Power: its Character, Career and Probable Designs: Being an Attempt to explain the real issues involved in the American Contest* (London, 1862, 2nd edition, 1863).

³ *Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society*, June, 1854. Also issued as a separate pamphlet.

⁴ Cf. the following passage:—" . . . the currency is regulated not with reference to the functions which it has to perform, but with reference to a transaction quite independent of this—the transmission of gold to foreign countries." (*Principles of Currency, etc.*, p. 41).

⁵ *Journal D.S.S.*, vol. ii, page 236. This was reproduced under the title "The Course of Depreciation" as the second of the "Essays Towards a Solution of the Gold Question" in Cairnes' *Essays in Political Economy, theoretical and applied*. (London, 1873).

predecessors in the Dublin professorship, he undoubtedly rendered material service to it during his period of membership.

CONSULT:—L. L. Price: *op. cit.*, chapter v.

WILLIAM MONSELL (1812–1894), BARON EMLY.

As landowner and politician, Monsell's career followed a different path from that of most members of the Statistical Society in the nineteenth century. Born at Tervoe in Co. Limerick, where he resided for most of his life, he matriculated from Oriel College, Oxford, in 1831, but never completed his degree.

Monsell stood for Parliament as a Liberal Conservative in his home county of Limerick in 1847, and held the seat for twenty-seven years. During that time he held a series of public offices under various Liberal administrations, first becoming Clerk of the Ordnance in 1852 and retaining the position until its abolition in 1857. He was made a Privy Councillor in 1855 and held the appointments of President of the Board of Health and Vice-President of the Board of Trade for short periods, the one in 1857 and the other in 1866. In 1868 he was given the office of Under-Secretary for the Colonies and was promoted to be Postmaster-General in 1871. He left this office in November, 1873 and his career in the lower House ended at the same time, for he received his peerage in January, 1874.

Monsell was a zealous and influential member of the Catholic Church, which he joined in 1850, and he could claim the friendship of Newman as well as Gladstone. In Ireland he took an active interest in the affairs of his native county. Highly respected as a resident proprietor and reformer, he lost popularity in later life when he opposed the Land League and Home Rule.

In 1865 Monsell joined the Statistical Society as an ordinary member, but was elected a Vice-President in the ensuing session when their number was increased to twelve. In this capacity he addressed the Society at the opening of the Twenty-Second Session, in 1869, but he did not appear before it again until 1874, after his election to the Presidency.¹ On both occasions he gave an able account of the social and economic condition of Ireland, and stressed the importance of education in improving the state of the people.

This indeed was one of Monsell's principal interests. He

¹ Monsell held the office of President from 1872 until 1875.

was much concerned to assist the spread of higher education in Ireland and his name was associated with the unsuccessful plan for "an Irish national university upon a federal basis" which Gladstone advanced in 1873, while from 1885 until his death he acted as Vice-Chancellor of the Royal University of Ireland.

In this Monsell succeeded Thomas O'Hagan, whose connection with the Statistical Society very closely resembled his own. Like O'Hagan, Monsell was a distinguished figure in the public life of his day and one who was active in promoting the type of social reform for which the Statistical Society sought; equally, he was not merely an ornamental patron of the Society, but an officer genuinely interested in its activities as well as its objects.

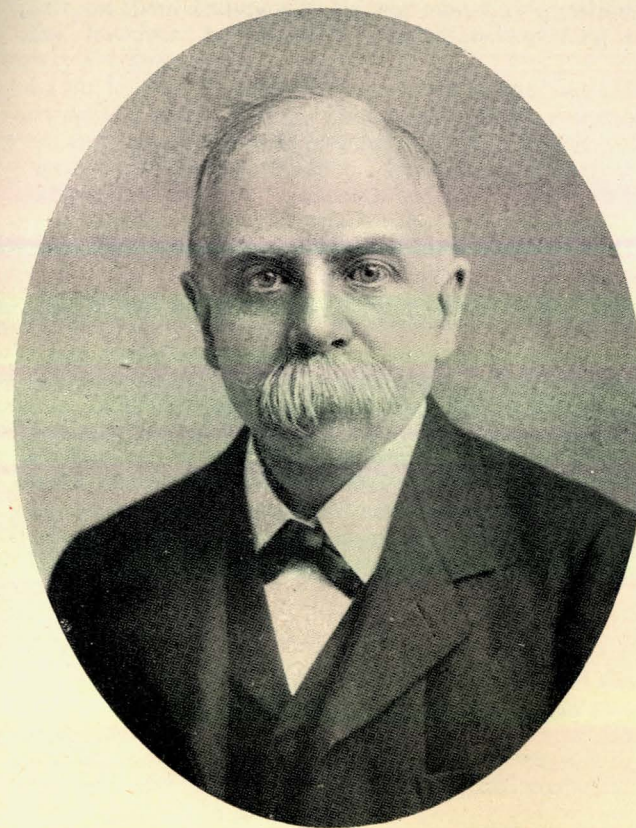
CHARLES FRANCIS BASTABLE (1855-1945).

If there are many distinguished names to be found amongst the lists of members of the Statistical Society, there are perhaps only two which are familiar to every student of Economics. One is John Elliott Cairnes, the other Charles Francis Bastable.

Born and educated in Co. Cork, Bastable graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1878 with a Senior Moderatorship in History and Political Science. It was through reading this course that he first developed an interest in Political Economy, and he reversed the customary procedure of Dublin's nineteenth-century economists by moving from economic to legal studies, for he was called to the Irish Bar in 1881.

In the next year, however, he returned to Economics—as the science was then beginning to be called—and devoted the remainder of his life to it. He was elected Whately Professor in 1882 by the normal process of examination, but when his first term of office ended the conditions of tenure of the Chair were altered. Bastable was enabled to retain it and did so for fifty years. During that time he also held several other academic positions. From 1883 until 1903 he was Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy in Queen's College, Galway; in 1902 he was appointed to the Chair of Jurisprudence and International Law in the University of Dublin and in 1908 became Regius Professor of Laws there. Bastable was one of the original Fellows and Council Members of the Royal Economic Society, a Fellow of the British Academy and President of Section F of the British Association in 1894.

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CHARLES FRANCIS BASTABLE,
HON. SECRETARY, 1886-1895.

Bastable's connection with the Statistical Society dated from the very outset of his career. He was appointed examiner in connection with the Barrington Lectures in 1881 and continued to act in this capacity until the system of having teaching lectures and examinations was discontinued in 1895. He served as an Honorary Secretary from 1886 until 1895 and was then one of the Vice-Presidents up to 1915. In the period 1882-1893 he read a series of papers before the Society, the majority of them dealing with current monetary questions. After this, however, he ceased to contribute anything to the Society's transactions.

The reason for this is perhaps to be found in the fact that it was just at this period that the books on which his enduring reputation as an economist was founded were being published. His "Theory of International Trade" had appeared in 1887; "The Commerce of Nations" came in 1892, closely followed by the famous "Public Finance"¹ which remains a fundamental text-book at the present day. This was his last major work, but he continued to contribute frequently to the *Economic Journal* up to 1917, most of his articles treating either theoretical or practical aspects of Public Finance, the subject which he had made his speciality.

From about this time until he resigned the Chair of Political Economy at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1932 Bastable devoted himself entirely to teaching, and his connection with the Statistical Society ended thirty years before his death. It cannot be claimed that the Society played a large part in his long, active and distinguished career, but on the other hand it benefited considerably from his support during a difficult period of its existence.

THOMAS ALOYSIUS FINLAY (1848-1940).

As was the case with many of the eminent members of the Statistical Society, the Reverend Father Finlay, S.J., possessed such diverse talents and interests that his account of his career and economic work must certainly not be considered as attempting to give any complete account of his character and achievements.

Thomas Finlay was educated at Cavan College, later attended the Gregorian University in Rome and entered

¹ The full references are:—*The Theory of International Trade: with Some of its applications to Economic Policy* (Dublin, 1887, 2nd ed. London and New York 1897); *The Commerce of Nations* (London, 1892); *Public Finance* (London and New York, 1892; 2nd ed., 1895; 3rd ed., 1903).

the Society of Jesus in 1866. He was ordained in 1881 and in the following year returned to Ireland and took up the duties of Rector of Belvedere College, Dublin. At the same time he became a Fellow of the Royal University of Ireland and Professor of Philosophy in University College, Dublin. In 1900 he succeeded W. P. Coyne in the Chair of Political Economy in the College and retained it after the foundation of the National University of Ireland in 1909, retiring from it in 1930.

The academic was only one side of Father Finlay's career, however, and it would be impossible to catalogue here the whole of his activities, literary, social and public. In economic affairs he was not merely a teacher but had an immense practical influence on Irish economic life, and it is perhaps for this that he is best remembered in the world at large.

Father Finlay had seen the working of agricultural co-operation during his travels in Europe and when Sir Horace Plunkett first attempted to develop the idea in Ireland he was interested almost from the outset. He rendered invaluable service in helping to overcome prejudice and enlist support for the co-operative plan throughout Ireland and when the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was founded in 1894 he was at once elected its Vice-President. His connection with the Society continued for some forty years and "his addresses at the annual meetings of the I.A.O.S. were valuable expositions of the co-operative principle."¹ But Father Finlay's work for agricultural development was not confined to the co-operative movement. He was a member of the famous Recess Committee and indeed did much to secure its establishment, while Sir Horace Plunkett freely acknowledged the great help which he received from Father Finlay during the early days of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.² Moreover, he did much to encourage rural industries, and the Providence Mills at Foxford are a practical example of his success in that direction.

The Statistical Society elected Father Finlay to membership in 1885, and he joined the Council in 1889. It was about this time that he began to contribute to the Society's transactions, and the titles of his first three papers are indicative of his interests. They dealt with "German Socialism"

¹ O'Brien, "Father Thomas A. Finlay, S.J., 1848-1940." *Studies*, March, 1940, p. 33.

² "Sir Horace Plunkett on Professor Finlay's career as Social Reformer," in *A Page of Irish History: Story of University College Dublin, 1883-1909* (Dublin, 1930), p. 255.

(1890), "Co-Operative Agricultural Societies in Germany" (1891) and "Progress of Co-Operation" (1896). He occupied the Presidency during the period 1911-13 and the address which he delivered in that capacity in 1912 was his last before the Society. He did not lose interest in it, however, despite his many other concerns, but continued his membership and attendance at meetings.

"Father Finlay was unquestionably one of the outstanding personalities of modern Ireland"¹ and even regarded purely as an economist he was of unusual calibre. He never sought distinction as a theorist, but he combined his theoretical knowledge with thorough and practical understanding of the economic problems of his own country, and used them both to its great advantage.

CHARLES HUBERT OLDHAM (1859-1926).

During the period 1890-1925 the Statistical Society had scarcely any more active member or frequent contributor than C. H. Oldham. A Dubliner by birth, he was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating in 1882 with a Senior Moderatorship and Large Gold Medal in Experimental Physics and Gold Medal in Mathematics. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1890 and practised for some years on the Northern Circuit.

Oldham joined the Statistical Society in 1887 and it was through the Society that he began his career as an economist. He became Barrington Lecturer in 1895² and was re-appointed annually until 1901. His lectures proved an outstanding success and even at the present day there are many people who remember and speak with appreciation of them. In consequence when the Rathmines School of Commerce was established in 1901 he was appointed its Principal. At the foundation of the National University of Ireland in 1909 Oldham became Professor of Commerce in University College, Dublin. In 1917 he transferred to the Professorship of National Economics in the same College and retained it until his death.

In addition to his service as Barrington Lecturer, Oldham acted as an Honorary Secretary of the Statistical Society from 1897 to 1908. He then became a Vice-President and was elected to the Presidency in 1924; his death took place

¹ O'Brien: Obituary Notice of Rev. Professor T. A. Finlay, S.J., *Economic Journal*, March, 1940, p. 159.

² See also History of the Society, p. 35.

during his term of office. In all he was the author of some twenty papers and addresses read before the Society. These covered a remarkably wide range of subjects. but almost all dealt with some aspect of Irish economic conditions, particularly external trade and public finance. These were the topics in which he was especially interested and he wrote a number of articles and papers on them for the *Economist* and other periodicals and societies.

In other directions Oldham also did much for the Statistical Society. He frequently represented it at meetings of the British Association, and served on several important Sub-Committees, including that on Housing in Dublin, which reported in 1914. As has already been mentioned,¹ he was the instigator of a strenuous and successful effort to increase membership at the time of his election to the Presidency. Oldham's own thirty-nine years of membership included those in which the Society's fortunes were at their lowest ebb, and he was instrumental in carrying it on and aiding it towards new development.

JOHN HOOPER (1878-1930).

Unlike the other personalities of whom sketches have been given in this volume, Hooper belonged essentially to the 'new generation' of members of the Statistical Society, having joined it only in 1924. He was born in Cork City, the son of a journalist and politician, Alderman John Hooper, M.P. In 1898 he graduated from the Royal University of Ireland with First Class Honours in Mathematics and entered the First Division of the Civil Service in 1900. After a brief period of office in London he returned to Dublin in 1902 to work in the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. He was assigned to the Statistics and Intelligence Branch, and thus commenced his career as a professional statistician.

Hooper's ability in this capacity secured for him the position of Superintendent of the Branch in 1917 and he was then responsible for the annual statistical "Report on the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports" issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. These reports displayed the high quality which he later imparted to the various statistical returns of the Irish Free State when he was made its first Director of Statistics in 1922. The duties of this newly created office were onerous, but he discharged

¹ History of the Society, p. 44.

them extremely well, developing the statistics of the previous régime and inaugurating many new ones. He was responsible for the first Census of Population and Census of Industrial Production in 1926, as well as for the new system of trade statistics introduced in 1924. Indeed during his term of office he shaped virtually all the statistical work of the State, the terms of the Bill which subsequently became the comprehensive Statistics Act of 1926 being framed by him.

Hooper was ideally fitted for such work for, despite his ability as a mathematician, his interest lay not so much in statistical theory as in the application and explanation of statistics. He prefaced his statistical reports with analyses of their contents which were models of their kind and greatly enhanced both the value and the popularity of the returns. With this gift of exposition he combined originality and common sense; no more valuable qualities could have been asked for in one charged with the task of building up a new and complete statistical service.

A year after he joined the Statistical Society Hooper was elected one of its Vice-Presidents, and held the Presidency for the session 1929-30. He found time to read only one paper before the Society, on "Statistics of Examinations,"¹ but this, designed as it was "to interest educationists in the theory of statistics," attracted widespread attention and was reprinted as an Appendix to the report of the Department of Education for 1927-28.

Hooper represented something unknown to the Statistical Society in its early days—the statistical specialist. In that capacity his career may have been less colourful than that of some of the officers in the nineteenth century, but none the less he rendered, unobtrusively, great service to his country and set a high example to his successors in the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.

¹ A summary appears in *Journal S.S.I.S.I.*, vol. xvi, part ciii, October, 1929.

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

The Papers and Addresses read before the Society, prior to 1855, were published and paged as separate pamphlets, but title-pages were issued to facilitate their collection into volumes, and when so bound have the following dates:—

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	III.	"	1851,	"	"	1854.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIAL INQUIRY SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

These Proceedings include Addresses and Reports to that Society from its foundation in 1851 to March, 1855, when it amalgamated with the Dublin Statistical Society. The Addresses and Reports were all published in separate pamphlets.

JOURNAL OF THE DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

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1857-1860.	HUTTON, A. DIX.
1857-1862.	CAIRNES, JOHN ELLIOTT, M.A., LL.D.
1860-1866.	O'SHAUGHNESSY, MARK.
1862-1866.	GIBSON, EDWARD.
1866-1886.	MOLLOY, CONSTANTINE.
1866-1868.	MONROE, JOHN.
1868-1870.	LITTLE, JAMES, M.D.
1870-1890.	PIM, JOSEPH T.
1886-1895.	BASTABLE, CHARLES FRANCIS.
1890-1901.	PIM, JONATHAN.
1897-1908.	OLDHAM CHARLES HUBERT.
1896-1916.	LAWSON, WILLIAM, LL.D.
1901-1929.	FALKINER, NINIAN McINTYRE, M.D.
1908-1925.	WOOD, HERBERT, B.A., M.R.I.A.
1918-1931.	BROWN, SPARKHALL, B.A.
1926-1946.	GEARY, R.C., D.Sc.
1932-1942.	O'BRIEN, GEORGE, D.Litt.
1933-	DUNCAN, GEORGE A., F.T.C.D.
1943-	BEDDY, J. P., D. Econ.Sc.
1946-	MEENAN, JAMES F., B.L.

HONORARY TREASURERS

1847-1849.	BLACKER, STEWART.
1849-1850.	DOBBS, CONWAY EDWARD, JR.
1850-1854.	ALLMAN, GEORGE JOHNSTON, LL.B.
1854-1882.	LITLEDALE, WILLIAM F.
1882-1892.	BEVERIDGE, JOHN.
1892-1897.	PIM, JONATHAN.
1897-1902.	JOHNSTON, WILLIAM JOHN, M.A., LL.B.
1902-1909.	O'NEILL, PETER JOSEPH.
1909-1925.	DOYLE, DANIEL S., LL.B.
1924-1944.	SHANAHAN, GEORGE E.
1944-	EASON, J. C. M.

LIST OF BARRINGTON LECTURERS

LAWSON, JAMES ANTHONY	...	...	1849, 1850, 1852
MOFFATT, THOMAS WILLIAM	...	...	1849-1853, 1855, 1856
HERON, DENIS CAULFIELD	...	...	...
HEARN, WILLIAM EDWARD	...	...	1849-1851, 1855
JENKINS, JOHN	...	...	1850, 1851
WALSH, RICHARD HUSSEY,	...	...	1850, 1851
LYSAGHT, EDWARD	...	...	...
LESLIE, THOMAS EDWARD CLIFFE	...	...	...
CAIRNES, JOHN ELLIOTT	...	...	...
JEMISON, WILLIAM HENRY	...	...	1855, 1857, 1858, 1860
EVELYN, FREDERICK G. ...	...	...	1856, 1857
ROSS, DAVID ...	...	...	...
BUSTEED, THOMAS M. ...	...	...	1856-1858, 1860
GREHAM, FREDERICK ...	...	...	...
CORKEY, JOSEPH ...	...	...	1858, 1860
SHAW, GEORGE FERDINAND	...	...	...
GIBSON, EDWARD ...	...	...	1861
MACDONNELL, RANDAL W.	...	...	1861
McFARLAND, JOHN ...	...	...	1861
PORTER, ANDREW MARSHALL	...	...	1862, 1863, 1864
MONROE, JOHN ...	...	...	1865, 1866, 1867
McKANE, JOHN ...	...	...	1868, 1869, 1870
DONNELL, ROBERT ...	...	...	1871, 1872, 1873
DOCKRILL, JOHN ...	...	...	1872
DODD, WILLIAM HUSTON	...	...	1872, 1874, 1877
MULHOLLAND, WILLIAM ...	...	...	1873
COPPINGER, VALENTINE J.	...	...	1873
PRENTER, REV. SAMUEL	...	...	1874
CAMPBELL, JAMES H. M.	...	...	1877, 1878
BROWN, SAMUEL LOMBARD	...	...	1877, 1878, 1882
BATES, ARTHUR HENRY ...	...	...	1880, 1881, 1882
HORNER, ANDREW ...	...	...	1887, 1890, 1893
HARRISON, THOMAS ...	...	...	1888, 1890, 1891
FITZHENRY, WILLIAM ...	...	...	1884, 1885, 1893
BAILEY, WILLIAM FREDERICK	...	...	1884, 1887
DOUGLAS, REV. J. ...	...	...	1885, 1886, 1888
CHERRY, RICHARD ROBERT	...	...	1888
WRIGHT, E. A. ...	...	...	1890, 1891, 1893
OLDHAM, CHARLES HUBERT	...	...	1895-1901
JONES, THOMAS ...	...	...	1904
MURPHY, HAROLD LAWSON	...	...	1910-1912
(None appointed)	...	...	1913-1919
JOHNSTON, JOSEPH 1920-1931 (intermittently)	...	...	1932-1935, 1946
BUSTEED, JOHN ...	...	...	1932, 1935, 1946
LEMBERGER, J. ...	...	...	1932-1936
LLOYD-DODD, F. T. ...	...	...	1937-1943, 1945
O'BUACHALLA, LIAM ...	...	...	1937-1940, 1942, 1944
MEENAN, JAMES ...	...	...	1938-1940
O'DONOVAN, DENIS ...	...	...	1941
MURPHY, MICHAEL ...	...	...	1941
SHIELDS, B. F. ...	...	...	1941-1944
HORGAN, JOHN J. ...	...	...	1944-1945
KENNEDY, HENRY ...	...	...	1943-1945
GORMAN, M. J. ...	...	...	1946
BLACK, R. D. COLLISON	...	...	1946

CORRESPONDING SOCIETIES, ETC.

Académie Royal des Sciences, des Lettres at des Beaux Arts de Belgique, Brussels.

American Statistical Association, The American University, Mass., and Nth. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Baker Library, Harvard University, Soldiers' Field, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Bibliothek des Preussischen Statistischen Landesamts, Berlin, S.W., 68 Lindenstrasse, 28.

British Association, Burlington House, London, W.

Camera di Commercio e Industria di Milano, Milan.

Central Statistics Board of the U.S.S.R., Moscow.

Central Statistics Office of the Kingdom of Hungary, Budapest.

College Historical Society, Trinity College, Dublin.

College of Law, Imperial University, Kyoto, Japan.

Columbia University Library, West 116 Street, New York, U.S.A.

Hamburgisches Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv., Hamburg 36, Postrasse 19.

Illinois University Library School, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.

Institut Economique Romain, Bucharest, Roumania.

Institute of Bankers, 5 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

International Labour Office, Montreal, Canada.

La Société de Statistique de Paris, Paris.

Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, 36 George's Street, Manchester.

Manchester Statistical Society, 25 St. Ann Street, Manchester.

Palestine Economic Society, Tel-Aviv, Palestine, P.O.B., 82.

Reparticao de Estatistica de Colonia de Mocambique (Caixa Postal No. 493), Lorenzo Marques, Portuguese E. Africa.

Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin.

Royal Statistical Society, 4 Portugal Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Société Hongroise de Statistique, Budapest, Hungary.

Swiss Federal Statistics Office, c/o 22 Clyde Road, Dublin.

Universata Commerciale Luigi Bossoni, Milano (III), Via Solferino 13.
University Philosophical Society, Trinity College, Dublin.

