

the rich and the poor, wiser and nobler attempts will be made to secure for all our fellow-men the comforts of life.* Under the feeling that there is nothing wild or utopian in the plan of improving society suggested by Mr. Buckingham, and believing it quite possible of realization, through the means of the co-operative principle which has already produced happy results almost un hoped for, I have been induced thus shortly to notice the plan proposed by my deceased friend, for realizing a condition of happiness towards the securing of which all our benevolent exertions tend, but for which great purpose they have hitherto proved sadly inefficient. Some nobler efforts must be put forth, if we would accomplish all that we ought to do in the light of that Christianity which we profess to be our guide, but which has hitherto produced but little ripe fruit among mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen, my task (and it has proved a pleasant one) is now completed. I commend the whole subject to your serious consideration, and to the best attention of my fellow citizens. The condition of our working-classes needs amendment.

VI—*Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.*

TWENTIETH SESSION.—OPENING MEETING.

[Tuesday, 27th November, 1866.]

The Society met at the Museum of Irish Industry, Stephen's-green, at eight o'clock, Sir Robert Kane, V.P., in the chair.

The Hon. Judge Longfield, President of the Society, and the following Vice-presidents, Edward Barrington, Esq., Professor Ingram, and James Haughton, Esq. were also present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mr. J. Monroe, Hon. Secretary, and confirmed by the Chairman.

Mr. Molloy, Hon. Secretary, read the Report of the Council.

Sir Robert Kane, V.P., delivered the Inaugural Address.

Sir Robert Kane having vacated the chair, and the Hon. Judge Longfield having been called thereto,

Dr. Hancock, Hon. Secretary, then proposed—"That the best thanks of the Society are due, and are hereby given, to Sir Robert Kane for his very able and valuable address."

* Among these will be reckoned the Co-operative system and Teetotalism conjoined. When these fine principles really shake hands together, they will cause wealth to accumulate so rapidly that no good work will be stayed for an hour, for want of funds; for funds far in excess of all human wants will then be continually accumulating, to enlarge the sphere of human happiness. The direct expenditure on intoxicating liquors in Great Britain and Ireland is, I believe, much over one hundred millions of pounds per annum. The indirect loss to the nation, in many ways, amounts to quite as large a sum in addition. Co-operation will yet teach men a wise application of these mighty savings.

SECOND MEETING

[Tuesday, 18th December, 1866]

The Society met at eight o'clock, at 35, Molesworth-street, Hon. Judge Longfield, President, in the chair.

Mr. Joseph T. Pim read a paper on "The Condition of our Railways considered with reference to their Purchase by the State."

Mr. Mulholland read a paper on "The application of Commercial Enterprise to the Construction of Railways."

The ballot having been examined the following gentlemen were declared to be duly elected members of the Society:—Edward Francis Cahill, Esq.; Valentine J. Coppinger, Esq., Barrister-at-law; Wilham Eykelbosch, Esq.; Francis Nolan, Esq., Barrister-at-law; Robert O'Maley, Esq., Barrister-at-law; Henry Robert Perry, Esq.

THIRD MEETING.

[Tuesday, 22nd January, 1867]

The Society met, Dr. Hancock in the chair.

Mr. James Haughton, V.P., read a paper on "Co-operation."

Mr. R. O'Maley read a paper on "Co-operative Societies."

On the motion of Mr. Molloy, seconded by Alderman Gregg, Mr. Haslam and Professor Slattery were elected auditors.

FOURTH MEETING.

[Tuesday, 5th February, 1867.]

The Society met at eight o'clock, at 35, Molesworth-street, Henry Dix Hutton, Esq. in the chair.

Mr. Monroe read a paper "On Friendly Societies and Government Annuities."

Mr. McKane read a paper on "The Supply of Coal and the National Debt."