

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DUBLIN.

CRIME CON.

Sir John Milly Doyle v. Geo. Peter Brown, Esq.

(A continuation from our Paper of Thursday.)

Stephen Donnellan, Esq., examined by Mr. O'Connell. Knows Mr. Brown, the Defendant, who was at his house in February 1819, before the last Circuit; there was no other person with him then; some time before the Defendant and Lady Doyle were at his (witness's) house, and slept there; they occupied the same room; there was but one bed in it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jackson. Recollects that, previous to the above time, he saw Lady Doyle at the Theatre, in Dublin; it was at the time of the Castellar Assizes, and whilst Miss O'Neill was performing; she was not then attended by Sir John Doyle.

Witness examined by Mr. Kinnella. Saw Mr. Brown, the Defendant, and Lady Doyle, walking together, in Gardiner's-row, on Friday week last.

Richard Hilton, examined by Mr. Wallace. Is proprietor of a hotel in Sackville-street, which the Defendant is in the habit of frequenting; he was there about the 5th of last November, and inquired if there was a box left for Lady Doyle, as he was to take it for her; so the witness gave him a box that had been previously left by the Rev. Mr. Doyle, who had brought it in a carriage; there was a young Lady with him (the Rev. Mr. Doyle) at the time; at another time there were three boxes left by the Rev. Mr. Doyle, for Lady Doyle, one of which contained plate; the other two contained jewels, which were given to a person who brought a note from Lady Doyle for them. Witness received a letter from Mr. Brown, then at Holyhead, desiring that the boxes should not be given to any one without a note from Lady Doyle. The Defendant's letter and Lady Doyle's note were then produced, and the hand-writing proved.

The Rev. Mr. Doyle, re-examined. Proved having got the three boxes at Alderman West's, and also having delivered them at Hilton's, for Lady Doyle, as he had been instructed; one box contained plate, the other a variety of valuable jewels; Miss Wheeler (niece to witness) was with him; that Lady went to London about three weeks back, but not to avoid being summoned on the present trial; if it had been thought necessary to summon her, there were frequent opportunities, as she resided in Dublin some months, and was frequently out.

Charles Connolly, clerk to Mr. Hilton, examined by Mr. O'Connell. After a good deal of interrogatory, witness admitted that Owen Ryder, servant to Defendant, had called to inquire about the boxes, and had brought a card to compare the writing with Lady Doyle's letter; the boxes were after being delivered at the time.

John Russell, clerk to Alderman West, examined by Mr. Crampton. Recollects the three boxes to be at Mr. West's, for Lady Doyle, and also their being delivered to a young lady, who, with the Rev. Mr. Doyle, took them away in a carriage; the jewels were of various kinds, rich and beautiful.

Matthew Blake, examined by Mr. Phillips. Considers business for Mr. Mullen, of Dame-street; recollects the jewels ordered by Lady and Sir John Doyle; they consisted of Irish diamonds, pearls, enamel, emerald, &c. &c., set in fine gold, and made, by Sir John and Lady Doyle's direction, to correspond with the decorations of the various Orders worn by Sir John. There were also various other articles, watches, brooches, and rings of different kinds.

After the examination of this witness, which closed the Plaintiff's case, the Court, at half-past five o'clock, adjourned to half-past ten next day.

SECOND DAY—TUESDAY, MAY 23.

Although the Court was this day much crowded, the confusion, such as occurred the preceding day, was in a great measure avoided, by the adoption of some judicious arrangements. Lord Norbury took his seat on the Bench at a few minutes after eleven o'clock. The Jury was then called over; after which

Mr. North addressed them. He was, he said, Counsel for the Defendant in the present action, and, as such, it was his duty to state the facts of the case fairly and distinctly. When Mr. Brown selected him to do so, he felt no slight gratification, not from any ill-will, but from a diffi-

rent and a purer motive—from a feeling of early friendship; and he was proud and happy to follow the solemn injunction of his early friend. He was happy that, when doing so, he addressed an enlightened Jury, who, unimpaired of every thing else, would discharge their duty, and that duty would dictate to them to do his client justice. They had been told, in a strain of superior eloquence, by the Counsel on the other side, that they were to act as the censor of public morals; and they were, therefore, called upon to offer a public testimony of regard to delicate feelings, which they would be guided in by the recollection of their own domestic circles; but they were not to preach to the world lessons of morality by their verdict—they were only to administer the compensation, in proportion to the cause the individual might have of loss, he had sustained. The value of all the gifts of nature, improved by art and taste, depends alone on the estimation in which they are held by the possessor. The most brilliant and costly gems are disregarded by the naked Indian, who is ignorant of their value. The inestimable works of Milton are of little value in the eye of ignorance; and the finest works of Greece are disregarded by the sullen Turk, who colidly and heedlessly wanders amidst them, unmindful of their beauties; and it would appear that the Plaintiff in the present action was equally regardless of the charms of his wife. What might have been expected from the Lady, had she met, in the arms of a tender, a kind and affectionate husband, those attentions she was entitled to, was not for him to say; but, so far from meeting with these kind attentions, she was treated with the greatest cruelty, the greatest neglect by the man who had caused the present pleadings. His Learned Friend had stated, that Sir John Doyle was a soldier of splendid lineage—of great military achievements—of high renown—and that he had associated with the most distinguished military leaders. He was not prepared or inclined to dispute these assertions; but he was not a little at a loss to know why these things were now so pompously set forth—or why, on the present occasion, the shade of the great departed Abercrombie should be invoked. Let me ask you not one single touching picture, that would go to the heart, be worth his entire gallery of military characters? One act of kindness, one mark of generous, ardent affection, properly bestowed, would reflect on him more honour than all those fine and glittering golden crosses—than all those fine distinctions of Knight Commander of the Bath, and all the other titles he so proudly boasts. Vain man, let him reserve these glittering toys, these embellishments, for the drawing-room, and not boast of these things, that, in the scale of estimation, would not weigh a single feather. It was his duty to state, that, while Sir John Doyle was pursuing his military career, he formed a connexion with a Portuguese young lady; and, if ever the love of woman reached his heart, he (Mr. N.) was certain it was for her. By her he had two children; one of them is dead, the other living. When Sir John returned to this his native country, he laid his plan of repairing his fortune by a matrimonial speculation. He reconnoitred the country. Lady Doyle (then Miss Bryan) shone in the firmament of fashion, and a brighter star could not attract the love or the admiration of man. Beside her personal attractions, this young Lady added that of being the only daughter of Major Bryan, and only removed from being his sole heir by a single life; she was also the idol and darling of an aunt, Miss Bryan, then advanced in years, and who possessed property amounting to no less a sum than £29,800, which it was well understood, was to be bequeathed to her niece; in addition to which, there was a strong probability of her becoming heiress to a still farther sum of £80,000. There were far more substantial matters than any glory that was reaped in Egypt, or than was acquired under Abercrombie or Wellington. Sir John Doyle, therefore, lost no time in obtaining an introduction to the hospitable dwelling of Major Bryan, where he was received with all that open frankness and cordiality for which that gentleman is distinguished, in the true spirit of English hospitality, and with all the splendor of English hospitality. On these occasions, Sir John made a display of his various orders, his glittering crosses, and insignias; he was, in short, a most magnificent testimonial, with the name of every hero fought by his Grace engraved, and hung about his person—with their history constantly on his tongue, describing how regiment after regiment advanced and disappeared; and then the modern Orlando told—

"How levels fell headlong, wondering how they fell." Miss Bryan did not possess those admiring propensities which could render her invaluable to the assiduity of the hero, and the poor victim was lured by those gaudy and glittering trappings. Within the first week of their marriage, while the bridal clothes were yet undressed, and before the virgin blush could well be said to have departed from her cheek, he obliged her to take home his female illegitimate child—yes, by his mandate (not a request), at a time when the fond hope of becoming a mother herself might be cherished, was she obliged to take a bastard to her arms. You will, no doubt, be prepared to hear, that this child was without a mother, or, at least, that she was rolled between her and it; but no, at the time that the child was taken by Lady Doyle, at Fermoy, the mother was in the city of Cork, distant only sixteen miles, married to a person named McDonnell, who kept what is called a canteen for the recruits. When the Plaintiff removed to Cork, when he was inspecting Field Officers of Recruits, he had his office within one hundred yards of this

woman's house, while he had his wife at the Black Centre, and spent whole days and evenings at the canteen, quaffing his favourite beverage, whiskey punch. If these occurrences were objected to, by mild remonstrance, the stern reply was, "Damn your aristocratic pride!" They have been heard, as it will be proved to you, to pass their nights in quarrels, and on the servant going into the apartment the following morning, evident signs were visible of Sir John Doyle's intemperance, by the furniture, &c. being broken. On one occasion, the servant was seized with tertian fever; during her illness, Lady Doyle attended her until she died; after which the Doctor recommended her to leave the house, for fear of infection; but Sir John Doyle would not consent, and the Doctor was actually obliged to procure accommodation for her at the house of a friend. Mr. North then said, that when Lady Doyle wrote to Sir John, she did not mention the books she had read—the society she had enjoyed—no; these had no music for his ear; but knowing what means she had to conciliate him, says, he shall drink whiskey-punch, and then tells him she had not been extravagant. Another circumstance proves his neglect; he actually obliged her to travel in a common stage-coach, and gave her as to a crowd of other things. With respect to the Defendant, he had not seen Lady Doyle for eighteen months before, nor for two months after, her marriage. When they were children, it so happened that the Governors who instructed Miss Bryan, and the Tutor who instructed the sisters of the Defendant, were sisters, and by that means frequent opportunities occurred for their being together. After this, Mr. Brown saw her both in private and in public, and in her father's house.

Mr. North pursued the subject of the case with great eloquence, and in very strong terms, endeavouring to show, that the Plaintiff was principally to blame for what had occurred, and set down amid loud plaudits, after which the examination of witnesses for the Defence was proceeded on.

Arthur Neagle sworn, examined by Mr. Sergeant Joy. Lived as servant with Sir John Doyle while at Cork; Sir John had a house at Black Rock, near Cork, and had his office in town, within a very short distance of the place where Mrs. McDonnell kept a canteen; Adjutant Curzon, of the 20th Regiment, used to visit at the house almost every day; there were not any ladies in the habit of visiting there; the Officers of the barracks used to visit; Sir John used to go to Cork every day, and returned usually about five or six o'clock; there was a little child in the house; witness slept near Sir John's room, and heard him and Lady Doyle often scolding at night; they spoke in French, and he (witness) could not understand them; used frequently to see Mrs. McDonnell, by whom Sir John had the child, at the house; she was often there when Lady Doyle was absent, and used then to go up.

Catherine Allen sworn, and examined by Mr. Johnson. Lived as cook with Lady Doyle. [This woman's evidence was to the same effect as that of the last witness, and did not afford any new matter deserving of notice.] Denis R. Moylan, Esq. of Cork. This Gentleman applied for his expenses, and, after being told by the Court that he should be satisfied, was examined by Mr. Wallace. Knows Sir John and Lady Doyle; Sir John always seemed to possess the most unbounded fondness for Lady Doyle, and always spoke of her with the greatest respect; dined in company with him at Mr. Duggan's, and was surprised to hear him speak so kindly as he did of her after their being separated.

Michael Murphy, Esq. examined by Mr. Jackson. Knows Sir John Doyle, who dined with witness frequently; recollects his having done so about six months after he was married, at which time he said he was the happiest man alive.

Mr. North produced a parchment, which he stated to be the marriage settlement of Defendant's father and mother, by which it appeared that the sum provided by it for the provision of younger children was £12,000, and that there had been 16,000 guineas marriage portions to three sisters of the Defendant, being £1000 over the sum provided.

Mr. Sergeant Barton, for the Plaintiff, then addressed the Jury in a most comprehensive speech, in which he fully adverted to every observation made by the opposite Counsel, and commented on the testimony of the different witnesses. He complimented Mr. North for his superior talents, at the same time that he glanced with well-directed severity to the disadvantageous point of view in which his client, the Plaintiff, was attempted to be placed. He contended that those badges of high distinction, which had been treated so lightly, were such as every soldier should be proud to merit and proud to wear. He reproached, in strong terms, the conduct of the Defendant, both as to his treatment of the Plaintiff and of the lady. He contended that his client was entitled to ample damages, and conjured the Jury, as they esteemed public and private virtue, domestic happiness, and national morality, to mark their abhorrence of the circumstance that gave rise to the present action, by awarding exemplary damages against the Defendant. The Learned Serjeant was most happy and appropriate in every point of his appeal, and received long and warm plaudits at its conclusion.

Lord Norbury then proceeded to charge the Jury, whom he complimented on their perfect adequacy to fix the damages. He also said the Counsel on both sides a very handsome tribute of approbation. He observed to the Jury, that it had ever been said of Ireland, that her daughters were chaste, and her sons brave, and exhorted them to lend their aid to preserve that character, by discountenancing the offence of the Defendant.

The Jury retired for about ten minutes, and returned a verdict of £3000 Damages. The verdict was received with tokens of great satisfaction.

The following are the names of the Jury: Alderman Matthew West, Isaac Stewart, Humphrey Mouchie, Edward Croker, Richard Cook, George Dwyer, Alderman S. W. Findall, Samuel Clifton, John Donnan, Robert Armstrong, Hickman Kearney, Richard Robinson, Esq.

THREATENING NOTICES.—We have heard with concern, that several public notices of a threatening nature have lately been addressed to Mr. Pringle, of Garyricken, the respectable superintendent of the O'Monroe estate in that quarter of the county of Kilkenny. It appears, that this gentleman has lately become the tenant of a division of the Garyricken estate, and has thus exposed himself to the vindictive jealousy of those miscreants who would regulate the disposition of land by their own rule and arbitrary distinctions. Several of the O'Monroe tenants, we understand, manifested an excellent spirit on this occasion, & co-operated zealously in every arrangement likely to facilitate a discovery of the conspirators from whom the lawless notices in question emanated. Six persons were, on the 16th instant, committed to our county gaol, charged with having written and posted these threatening publications. The Garyricken tenants, having laudably volunteered their services against these nocturnal marauders, whose violence has contributed so much to rural distresses, continue to patrol that neighbourhood every night, armed, and are animated by the best spirit in defence of the public quiet. This very exemplary conduct of the peasantry in that quarter affords an additional and convincing proof of what may be effected by a voluntary union of rural society, towards the maintenance of domestic tranquillity; and we would recommend the encouragement of a similar course of praiseworthy operations, wherever outrage betrays itself, as the best and surest protection of social interests. The conduct of the individual alluded to presents their character and feelings in the most laudable view; nor do we consider the zeal and activity of Mr. Pringle, under whose direction these people have so excellently united, as less worthy of general and decided approbation. We run no hazard of over-rating those exertions, which, judiciously directed, most effectually preserve the public peace, unaided by the introduction of a burdensome military or police establishment.—*Kilkenny Moderator.*

A poor man, of the name of Butler, who rents a small farm in the County of Tipperary, appears to be the only surviving heir, and next of kin, to the late proprietor of immense estates both in this Country and England. His claims have not been recognised by several tenants on the Irish estates, some of whom have not paid any rent for twenty years. The poor man's cause has been taken up by a Gentleman of respectability; and there is little doubt entertained of his success.

On Friday evening last, a very indigent man, of the name of White, who is slaughter butcher to Thomas Cox, Esq. of Carlow, (an eminent provision merchant) was driving a gig towards the track-way on the river Barrow, when the horse, having taken fright, ran so violently against the bank as to throw White out, who had his leg fractured by a kick of the animal, while struggling to extricate himself from the gig. In this situation, the poor man being unable to give any assistance, the gig rolled into the river, and the horse was drowned.—*Carlow Morning Post.*

Richard White, whom we mentioned in our last, as having had his leg broken, died on Tuesday. There are some melancholy circumstances connected with this accident and its results, which we think it necessary to lay before the Public, and are prepared to do so in our next. On yesterday there was a Coroner's Inquest held on the body of the deceased—a full and accurate report of which we shall give, as taken on the spot. The verdict of the Jury was, "That the death of the deceased was occasioned by a compound fracture of the left leg, and improper treatment by Sylvester Degan and others." Our report gives a full explanation of this treatment. Sylvester Degan is what the country people call a bonesetter, and was called in after two medical gentlemen had left the patient in the very best state which the nature of the accident could allow.—*Hind.*

It is rumored that the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, is exerting himself to have six additional Junior Fellows.

The following apology for not accepting an invitation to dinner was lately sent by a Gentleman of Ballybeg:—"Mr. Slaughterer is very sorry that he and the mistress were prevented cutting Mr. Poulton's mutton this day, by a little accident which has unexpectedly happened. Mrs. S. having just got two twins, a boy and a child, who, with the mother, are fine strong babies, and likely to thrive."

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RUSSIA MATS. SAMUEL CROSTWHAIT WILL SELL BY AUCTION, AT THE EXCHANGE, On WEDNESDAY, 31st May, at 12 o'clock, TWO THOUSAND RUSSIA MATS, OF SUPERIOR QUALITY. PEARSON, Auctioneer. Waterford, May 27, 1820.

AUCTION OF QUEBEC OAK LOGS. STRANGMAN & SONS INTEND TO SELL BY AUCTION, AT THEIR STORES, AT ONE O'CLOCK, THE 31st of this Month, ABOUT FIFTEEN HUNDRED QUEBEC OAK STAVES & HEADING, OF various dimensions, well worth the attention of Cooper. TERMS AT SALE. Waterford, 5th Month (May) 26th, 1820.

NOTICE. PERSONS wishing to contract for the erection of a DRY QUAY WALL, between the BRIDGE and GRANGE DOCK, and for REPAIRING the several BARRAGES in the QUAYS, can be furnished with particulars, upon applying to Mr. GEORGE BROWN, Secy. to the WATERFORD HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS, with whom sealed Proposals, addressed to the Committee of Commissioners, are to be left on or before the 1st of June next. Ballast-Office, May 18, 1820.

In the Matter of ELLIOTT, a Bankrupt. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, DUBLIN, At Three o'clock in the Afternoon of FRIDAY, the 2d of June next.

THE BANKRUPT'S INTEREST IN THE DWELLING-HOUSE, COMPING-HOUSE, PROVISION STORES, AND CELLARS, lately occupied by him, situate at ST. JOHN'S HILL, at the rear of the House of Industry, in the City of Waterford, held for a term, which will expire on the 20th of March, 1824, at the yearly rent of £140.

Also, the Bankrupt's Interest in Seven Indivisible Tenants Parts, excepting upon his surviving HEIR NEVINS, a Minor, in a REVERSIONARY LEASE of the same, with other adjoining COUGHERNS, for 99 years from the 25th of March, 1820, at the yearly rent of £175, 2s. A very large sum has been expended on the improvement of these Conduits. For further particulars, apply to CHARLES and COUNTESS S. TAYLOR, Waterford—or 4, Fish-lane-street, Dublin. May 18, 1820.

By the Lord Lieutenant and Council of Ireland, A PROCLAMATION. TALEBOT. WHEREAS we did, by our Proclamation of the 10th day of March, 1818, declare the Parishes of Naah, Westphalstown, Ballymadon, Garristown, Hollywood, Ballygob, and Palmerstown, in the Barony of Ballyduffy, and the Parish of Clonmethan, in the Barony of Nethercross, and County of Dublin, to be in a State of Disturbance, and to require an extraordinary Establishment of Police;

And whereas it hath been made known to us, that the said Parishes are restored to peace and good order; We, the Lord Lieutenant, by and with the advice of the Privy Council of Ireland, do hereby revoke and annul the said Proclamation, whereby the said Parishes of Naah, Westphalstown, Ballymadon, Garristown, Hollywood, Ballygob, and Palmerstown, and Clonmethan, were declared to be in a State of Disturbance, and to require an extraordinary Establishment of Police; of which all Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates and Peace Officers of the said County, and all others whom it may concern, are to take Notice.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Dublin, the 16th day of May, 1820. MYNERS, C. JOHNS G. DENNIS, FRANKFORT MOUNTAINVIEW, MAYO, CASTLEMEER NORBURY, W. DOWNES, MR. W. MAHON, G. F. HILL, ST. GEORGE DALY, WM. SAUNDERS, RUDOLPH.

DUBLIN MARKET NOTE, For the Week ending Friday, May 26, 1820. Table with columns for various commodities like Wheat, Barley, Oats, Flour, and their prices.

EXCISE-OFFICE, YOUGHAL, 19th MAY, 1820. OFFICES for receiving the ASSESSED TAXES of this District will be held at the following Places, and on the following Days—of which all Persons concerned are requested to take Notice: Youghal, from 29th May to 3d June. Castlemartyr, the 5th and 6th June. Clonmel, the 7th and 8th Do. Middleton, the 9th and 10th Do. Castlemore, the 13th and 14th Do. Tullane, the 15th and 16th Do. Cappanquin, the 20th and 21st Do. Dungarvan, the 22d, 23d and 24th Do. Kilmacomas, the 26th Do. Clashmore, the 28th Do. WM. STEWART, Collector.

FOR BALTIMORE, IN AMERICA, THE FINE COPPER-FASTENED BRIG, THOMAS, PYM, AND PENROSE, BURTHEN BY REGISTER 210 TONS, Is a very complete Vessel, and now fitting out in the best and most substantial manner. The Accommodation for Passengers will be especially attended to, and she will clear for Sea the 24th of June, in which, as usual, there will be no disappointment. Application to THOMAS NEVINS, Waterford, May 21, 1820.

TO BE SOLD, FROM £300 TO £350 PER ANNUM. ARISING out of a Property in the County of Waterford, held in perpetuity, and considerably underlet to solvent Tenants. Application by letter, post-paid, to JAMES WALSH, Esq. Attorney, Dunegrave—or Mr. F. HAYDON, Carrock-on-Suir, who will explain Particulars. £7500 would be taken on a Mortgage, if more agreeable. Nov. 10, 1818.

SOCIETY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRISON DISCIPLINE, AND FOR THE REFORMATION OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS. On Tuesday, the most numerous and respectable Meeting ever held in Freemasons' Hall took place in that Tavern, for the purpose of considering the best means of carrying into complete effect the great objects of The Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline and for the Reformation of Juvenile Offenders. The spacious area of Freemasons' Hall was fitted up with rows of seats for the accommodation of visitors, and at 12 o'clock it was most gratifying to find them filled with Ladies of distinction, particularly of the respectable Society of Friends, whose company, while it graced the Meeting, gave a most flattering and agreeable promise of the benevolent exertions which the Ladies were prepared to make in promoting the great objects of the Society. The platform, erected at the extremity of the Hall, was occupied by some of the most distinguished personages in the Country; among them we noticed with pleasure—

The Marquis of Lansdown, Earl Grosvenor, Earl Nugent, Lord Belgrave, Lord Auckland, the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, Sir Thomas Baring, Bart. M. P., Sir W. Johnson, the Hon. H. G. Brunell, M. P., the Hon. and Rev. Gerard Noel, Mr. W. Parnell, M. P., Mr. Willifore, M. P., Mr. Sturge Bourne, M. P., Dr. Lushington, M. P., Colonel Barry, M. P., Mr. Ricardo, M. P., Mr. Samuel C. Whitbread, M. P., Mr. Holland, M. P., and a number of other public-spirited characters.

At one o'clock His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester entered the room, preceded by the Stewards, and took the Chair amid great applause. His Royal Highness then addressed the Meeting. He commenced by lamenting that he laboured under severe indisposition, and would be under the necessity, after a short stay, of requesting their indulgent permission to withdraw. Indeed, the state of his health was such, that nothing but the warm interest which he took in the progress of this Institution would have induced him to quit his house this day. He was sure that the Meeting, which he repaired to see so numerous and respectable, was as fully convinced as he was of the great importance attached to the objects they had in view on the present occasion. It was most gratifying to find the great support which those objects obtained, in every quarter, among the Magistracy; indeed with every body who took an interest in the well-being of society. (Applause.) Not only at home had its benefits been felt, but also abroad. In the great empire of Russia, they were introduced and adopted—in France the same good result was apparent—and in many other parts of Europe.

His Royal Highness concluded a brief but impressive address, by stating, that the Meeting would now have the opportunity of hearing the objects of the Society clearly and fully elucidated.—(Applause.) Mr. T. Fowell Buxton then stepped forward, and was loudly applauded. He said he rose with some embarrassment, lest any miscon-

struction should prevail respecting the circumstances of his coming forward thus early in the presence of the distinguished personages who then surrounded him, many of whom were so much better qualified, than he could pretend to be, to enlarge on the great and important object they had in view. But the fact was, that from peculiar circumstances he was enabled to state from the very outset what had been done by the Society, and point out particularly the progress it had made. (Applause.) The object, he begged to state, originated in 1813, with a single individual, who resided in a large manufacturing district of the metropolis, and who, induced by a principle of benevolence, was in the habit of occupying himself in not only relieving the distresses that surrounded him, but also in inquiring into the real state and history of the poor families of his neighbourhood. In 1813, that Gentleman called upon him to state an individual instance of great juvenile depravity, which he had witnessed; it was that of the son of a very honest parent, who, though under nine years of age, had been already committed four times to a prison for great delinquencies. This instance of individual depravity shocked his friend, but upon extending his inquiries into the causes of similar early depravity, he found no less than 2000 instances of boys in the same dreadful misfortune. A few Gentlemen lost no time in pursuing the subject, and their labours were attended with the most beneficial effect. (Hear!) He felt satisfied, that much of that success was attributable under Providence to the good choice of proper officers to manage their business. Of their Chairman he dared not speak in terms of adequate praise; and of their Secretaries, he was equally at a loss to speak without the most unqualified approbation. The house of one of the latter, who had the entire charge of all their papers, was lately burned; his plate, his own papers and effects were altogether consumed, and the only things saved were the papers which belonged to this Society. (Applause.) The first arrangement made by the Committee of Gentlemen to whom he alluded was, to divide the metropolis into districts, for the purpose of making an accurate survey of the situation of the poor. They, during this inquiry, were fortunate enough to rescue many of those who were on the verge of crime from the dreadful brink on which they trembled, and over which they must have fallen, were not the kind hand of relief held out to them. (Loud Applause.) In the midst of the labours of their Committee, they were always met, and indeed nearly overthrown, by the great difficulty of not knowing what to do with the unfortunate beings who were the objects of their solicitude. (Hear, hear!) They were indeed relieved from the dreadful situation in which they were plunged, but they were wholly without the means of support, or any stay to prevent a relapse into crime, as the consequence of extreme distress. In this situation, a mode of present relief was held out, remarkable for its singularity, though not perhaps for its prevalence—it was the offer of one of their members to take the desolate beings they had saved, and provide for them in his own house. (Applause.) It was a pleasure to record, that many, very many, of these persons were restored to society, in which they continued industrious and honest members. They soon had the satisfaction of availing themselves of the humane offer of that excellent Society, the Refuge for the Destitute, from whom they received the use of a part of their building, which was unoccupied, owing, he regretted to say, to the want of funds in the Refuge, to apply it to their own most excellent and useful purpose. The Hon. Gentleman then pointed the attention of the Meeting to the past and present state of the Prisons of the Country, and the material improvements which discipline and a better system had happily established in them. Newgate now, for instance, had almost become a place of fashionable resort, for the purpose of doing good. (Applause.) Since the time of the philanthropic Howard, the subject of the state of Prisons had been taken up by other benevolent characters; by Mr. Neill, and by several whose sole object was the reformation of their species. (Applause.) The labours of such characters had fortunately explored the old system of the plan and principles of prison regulations, and taught the Public that something more was necessary in a goal than high walls and heavy chains. (Hear, hear!) The more the Committee extended their labours, the more they were convinced that the increase of juvenile delinquency was caused by the contagion to which the miserable objects were exposed by the want of classification within the walls of the Prisons of this Country. (Hear!) At the period to which he alluded, it was obvious that a sentence of imprisonment and hard labour was merely to consign an individual to idleness and sloth. The penitentiary houses were, at the same time, in an equally inefficient state, and, as well as the goals, consisted of places little better than schools for inculcating every species of crime.—How then could it be expected, that individuals, thrown from such situations, and without the means of any support, should adopt any other course than

that by which they would relapse into their former habits of depravity? The main object of the Society soon became to consider what steps should be taken for the purpose of providing employment for those who were rescued from scenes of evil and vice. The moment their attention was publicly known to have been drawn to this subject, the Committee was in the almost daily habit of receiving applications from the Magistracy and other bodies, with inquiries for their plans, their arrangements, their rules; indeed, for every information which could be useful in the reformation, not only in the discipline of Prisons, but of the plans usually adopted for their construction.—These numerous inquiries led to a mutual interchange of information; and the Committee had now given the Public the full benefit of their white labours. The Committee had never lost sight of this important axiom, that without classification and employment it was impossible to do any effectual good in the way of reformation. He would now take this opportunity of indicating the Society from one charge that had, among many others, been brought against them. It was said, that they wanted to make Prisons places of comfort and indulgence. This charge he would fairly meet. They wished to make Prisons so far comfortable as to make them clean—(hear, hear!) and to make their inmates clean instead of filthy, to make them industrious instead of idle, rational instead of intemperate. (Hear!) Were these then the ways that were calculated to make them relapse into crime, or whether they were not rather those best calculated to promote the social order of the community? (Hear, hear!) He knew very well the old practice which they now had altered, the scenes of gaming, and drunkenness, and profligacy, that were wont to be witnessed in the Prisons of the Country, and by means of which the novice in crime, who was thrown into a goal, soon came out a ready adept in every species of profligacy and crime. (Hear!) These vices were now banished, so far as classification had been practicable. This was obvious on a comparison between the goals conducted on the old and new plan. On the former, thirty, forty, and even sixty, out of every hundred, were found to return to the goal from which they came—while on the new plan the returns were not found to exceed six per cent. The object of the Society was not to make a Prison a place of comfort, but one of discipline—(hear, hear!)—not one of rigour or harshness, but of rational restraint. The old plan was cruel as well as lax; it roused, not quelled passion—the new was moderate and effective. The utmost way to make men savages was to treat them like savages. (Hear!) The noblest example of the practical effect of a change of system in the management of Prisons had been formed by the Ladies' Committee in Newgate. (Hear, hear!) It was made too upon walls which never knew control, and who indulged in every passion, and in a bold defiance alike of the laws of God and man. These beings were found to yield to a rational discipline, which they were soon made sensible was calculated for their own good. He would, while on this topic, say a word respecting a late disturbance among the females in Newgate, which was proclaimed to the world, not alone through the ordinary channels of public information, but also by placards posted up on the walls of the metropolis. On inquiry, the accounts published were found to be erroneous. There had been certainly a disturbance in the Prison, and though he did not mean to vindicate it, he must also say there was some cause for that disturbance. It was the humane practice of the Governor of Newgate to allow the female convicts the opportunity of seeing their friends the night before they were sent away for transportation—this privilege, on the occasion alluded to, owing to the time when the arrangement for sending the women off was made, could not be acceded to. In the uproar thereby caused, eighteen joined, and upwards of thirty women, though asked by the others, did not join. (Hear, hear!) The forbearance of the one ought therefore to have been mentioned as well as the act of the other. (Hear, hear!) It should also be recollected that was the state of these women before the Ladies gave their attention to the Prison. It disclosed a scene of hopeless profligacy. This change was a conclusive proof of the benefit derived from an alteration of the old system. With respect to the foreign operations of the Society, which had been alluded to by their illustrious Chairman, their amiable friend, Mr. William Allen, had made a foreign tour. Russia was now actively employed in adopting for her population the plans of the Society. At St. Petersburg and Moscow, public meetings had already been had, and large sums subscribed to carry into effect the reformatory system; the Emperor of Russia had declared himself Patron, and nominated his Prime Minister, Prince Galitzin, to be President. The Hon. Gentleman then adverted to the prospective arrangements to which the Meeting ought to look, for the purpose of extending, as well as preserving the great benefits which the Society had in

