



SOCIETY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF IRELAND.

The Society met on Tuesday at the Royal Exchange, Dublin—Sir Charles Morgan in the Chair.

The motion adopted at the last Meeting was brought up.

Sir Thomas Esmonde called the attention of the Meeting to a passage in the petition, upon which he said a difference of opinion might arise, where allusion was made to the Poor Laws. He suggested that the passage should be so altered, that no difference of opinion could arise upon it.

The following is the paragraph alluded to:—That while your petitioners congratulate your Honourable House on the admitted general tranquillity of Ireland, they deem it their duty to state their conviction, that short of actual starvation, the greatest distress prevails in the country. Your petitioners, however, feel little confidence in the continuance of a tranquillity which arises out of a mere protracted state of existence of human beings, and, without presuming to offer any opinion on the question of a compulsory rate for the relief of the poor, petitioners submit, that were even a system of poor rates established by assessment, the relief thus extracted from our national means, which are known to your Honourable House to be extremely limited, could be of little advantage in augmenting the comforts of an entire manufacturing and agricultural population, acknowledged to be in the lowest state of destitution.

Mr Dwyer suggested some alteration in the petition where it spoke of the distress existing in the country.

Mr Willias was of opinion that the words were not at all too strong in speaking of the distress of the country. His business led him to have correspondence with various parts of the country, and from the most authentic information he could receive, he could state that distress never existed to such an extent in Ireland as at this moment.

Mr Flinn would have no objection to the petition, if it were generally understood that it did not convey any opinion upon the question of the Poor Laws.

Mr Groves thought it would be better omit the passage altogether.

General Cockburn was disposed to exclude all reference to the Poor Laws from the petition, and expressed himself unfavourable to the introduction of Poor Laws into this country.

Mr Leader said the country was in a state of admitted tranquillity, and also in a state of almost unexampled distress, which was not confined to one district or another. It exists in Belfast, it exists in Bandon, from the North to the South, from the East to the West, the same story is to be told; every man feels it, and the administration that denied it has fallen in public estimation.

Mr Dwyer said the petition, in his view, was in a state of admitted tranquillity, and also in a state of almost unexampled distress, which was not confined to one district or another. It exists in Belfast, it exists in Bandon, from the North to the South, from the East to the West, the same story is to be told; every man feels it, and the administration that denied it has fallen in public estimation.

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Mr Berwick thought the petition expressed no opinion upon the subject of poor rates, or said whether they would be advantageous or not. It merely alluded to the state of general distress under which the country laboured, and which the poor rates, whether approved of or not, were not calculated to remove.

Mr M'Mullen suggested whether it might not be advisable, as so much difference of opinion existed, in regard to the petition, to refer it back to the Committee who had framed it. He thought that this Society, in any petition which they presented to the Imperial Legislature, whether the object of that petition was to obtain pecuniary aid, or to solicit some new law favourable to the interests of Ireland, should, in the first instance, make a case, showing to the Government and the Legislature that it was their interest to grant what was asked on behalf of Ireland; and that this country would repay, by its rapid improvement, and by the increase of its contribution to the revenue of the Empire, any pecuniary aid or any legislative indulgence extended to it. Mr Spring Rice had stated in Parliament, on a very recent occasion, that in his opinion, England might be regarded as an old and exhausted country, while the resources of Ireland were new, vigorous, and almost untouched. It was to the improvement of Ireland, therefore, that England must, of necessity, turn, as the only means left of recruiting her exhausted finances. Lord Bessley, in a speech delivered in the House of Lords in the course of last Session, and which was warmly applauded by the Duke of Wellington, had stated that there could be no hope of making any impression upon the National Debt of Great Britain until she possessed a Sinking Fund, or surplus revenue of eight millions a year. England, which had long attained the summit of political and commercial prosperity, and was burdened with a taxation which it was hopeless to think of increasing, it was perfectly clear could never contribute that sum. With a population equal to one-half of that of Great Britain, Ireland contributed but five millions a year in taxes, whilst England paid five millions more; yet the rates at which taxation was levied, were substantially the same in both countries. Here, he would contend, was the ground on which pecuniary aid and legislative indulgence should be asked—for Ireland had improved; let the Legislature set about this task in good earnest, with zeal, and at the same time with liberality, and the deficient eight millions of revenue would soon flow from this country into the Imperial Exchequer. A review of the advantages which England would gain by well-directed liberality to Ireland was the reasoning which should be disposed to offer to Parliament in support of the petition.

Mr Dwyer then said, to prevent any difference of opinion, he would move that the 5th clause in the petition should be omitted altogether. This motion was put and carried, and the petition referred back to the Committee. Mr Groves brought forward the draft of a petition, relative to the removal of duties paid on the importation of coal, which was referred for revision to Mr Howell, Mr Willias, and Mr M'Mullen. The motion of Mr Howell upon the subject of the Poor Laws; also Mr Dwyer's motion regulating the meetings of the Society, were postponed until the next day of meeting. Mr Leader was then called to the Chair, thanks voted to Sir Charles Morgan, when the Meeting adjourned.

TEMPLEMOYLE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have great pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to this interesting establishment. We have received a letter from a visitor at Templemoyle, which shall appear in our next number. At present we shall satisfy ourselves with assuring the public that the most sanguine wishes of the friends of this institution are likely to be amply gratified. Its usefulness, as we hoped, is extending itself to different parts of Ireland—indeed to a degree which was not at first anticipated. Applications for admission are increasing rapidly from counties remote from Templemoyle. We learn that boys from Tyrone, Donegal, Antrim, Down, Galway, Louth, Monaghan, Fermagh, Sligo, and Roscommon, are at present at this establishment, acquiring a most excellent agricultural and English education.

This seminary has now been in operation only two years and nine months, yet such has been the rapid improvement of the pupils in the various branches of their pursuits, that three have been already taken as land stewards to manage extensive farms, and in the course of a few months, several young men will leave it highly qualified to conduct agricultural operations on almost the largest scale. The greatest care is taken that they be thoroughly instructed in English, writing, arithmetic, trigonometry, land surveying, and the construction of maps. Every attention is paid to make them acquainted with book-keeping, especially so far as this branch of education applies to the keeping of accounts systematically between a landed proprietor and his steward.

We are greatly gratified to hear of the liberality of a number of landlords of our immediate neighbourhood, in supporting this establishment; several of whom are, at their own expense, been supporting boys in Templemoyle since the commencement of the seminary. For instance, the Grocers' Company maintain six boarders and six day scholars—the Drapers' Company four boarders—the Lord Bishop of Derry two—and our present chief magistrate, Sir Robert Ferguson, has never had fewer than four or five. Many other gentlemen at a distance are, greatly to their credit, supporting from one to two each.

We anxiously wish to excite in the public a curiosity to visit Templemoyle, that gentlemen may be able to judge for themselves respecting its utility. We venture to predict that they will leave it with a strong conviction of its many advantages, and will most freely admit that they had seldom devoted a few hours more to their satisfaction.

PLOUGHING MATCHES. On the 15th ult. the Raleigh branch of the North-West Society had its ploughing match, in a field belonging to John Mansfield, of Kelygordon, Esq. The day was unusually fine, and numerous spectators were present. The first class was confined to those who had gained first and second premiums at former matches, and consisted of Johnson Mansfield, Esq. R. King, Esq. Mr W. Hamilton, and Mr W. Patterson, who held his own plough. In the second class were entered the ploughs of the following individuals:—W. Fenwick, Esq. Captain Humphrey, Wm. Walker, Esq. Messrs Robert Mathews, Thomas Blair, David Hunt, David Wilson, Robert Allen, David Blair, and James M. Curry. Messrs James Allison, John Woods, and William Foster, acted as judges. In the first class, the first premium of £10 and one volume of the North-West Society's Magazine, was awarded to Mr William Hamilton; and the second premium of £7 6s to Johnson Mansfield, Esq.—In the second class, the first premium of £10 was awarded to Mr David Blair, who had held his plough; the second of £7 6s to Mr Robert Allen; and the third of £5 to Mr David Wilson. After the exhibition the members of the branch and competitors were entertained by Johnson Mansfield, Esq. with his usual hospitality.

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THE BLESSINGTON DOWNSHIRE ESTATE.

On Tuesday, the 23rd ult. a ploughing match took place in a field belonging to Mr John Murray, near the town of Blessington, which was numerously attended by the gentry and peasantry of the neighbourhood; the sight was most gratifying—a more orderly and comfortable looking tenantry could not have been produced in any part of the country. Several well appointed ploughs started at one o'clock, and executed their task in a very creditable manner.

The premiums to farmers were implements of husbandry upon the most approved plan. The premiums to ploughmen, money. Other premiums are held out by the Society for the neat cottages, knitting, spinning, &c.

PLOUGHING MATCH OF THE STRABANE BRANCH OF THE N.W. SOCIETY. On Thursday evening the Annual Ploughing Match of this Branch was held at Mallon, in a field belonging to Oliver Lacey, Esq. At 12 o'clock, thirteen ploughs started, the appointments and efficiency of which fully maintained the characters of the farmers of this district, as spirited and improving agriculturists. In consequence of a Scotch Winnowing Machine, value £8 having been offered by Sir John James Edgemoine, to any farmer on the Marquis of Abercorn's estate, who by himself or his son, should plough one bull rood of ground in the best manner, with one pair of horses, &c. in rain, unusual anxiety was manifested by the competitors. The Judges appointed were, Mr Robert Alexander, of Sillisville; Mr Wm. Cochran, of Carrickloe; and Mr John Rattrick, of Gortlogher, who, after careful examination of the comparative merits of the several competitors, awarded the premiums.

At five o'clock, about sixty persons sat down to dinner in the Town Hall. The Rev. Charles Douglas, Vice President of the Branch, in the Chair—supported on his right by Dr. Stewart, Messrs Lacey and Stevenson; and on his left by Captain Doherty, Messrs Boyle and Alexander. Thomas Neville Burgoyne, Esq. acted as crier—supported on his right by Mr. Francis O'Neill; and on his left by Captain Auchincloss, R.N. The meeting broke up at an early hour, mutually gratified by the convivial and good feeling which pervaded the evening's entertainment. In the course of the evening, several challenges were given for a bull, lamb, seed oats, wheat, barley, and beans.

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S TEA SALE. On Monday morning the East India Company's quarterly sale of tea commenced at the India House, and was fully attended. The declaration consists of seven million; eight hundred thousand pounds of tea, being the same quantity as that offered at the last sale. Of the several descriptions of tea, the following are the quantities to be offered:—Of Botea, 1,200,000 lb.; of Congou, 2,000,000 lb.; of Souchong, 3,200,000 lb.; of Fook-poh and Hyson Skin, 1,500,000 lb.; and of Hyson, 250,000 lb. The Boteas are now on sale, and are selling briskly; quotations a shade higher than those realized at the last sale. The whole of the declaration will not be got through until the middle of next week.

ABSENTEES. Returns made by the Police Authorities to the Prefect of Paris, of the number of English non-residents in France. Paris, 14,500; Versailles, 2,040; St. Germain, 150; Tours, 2,795; Bourdeaux, 965; Bruges, 80; Montpellier, 300; Marseilles, 120; Lyons, 60; Fontainebleau, 30; St. Quentin, 300; Dunkirk, 500; St. Omer, 700; Boulogne, 6,000; Calais, 4,550; Other places, 1,833—35,495.

Their annual expenditure is estimated by the French at four millions of money, or more than one hundred pounds each; perhaps their real expenditure may be six millions. In Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium, there may be almost as many, with a similar expenditure. Two fifths are supposed to be Irish. It may be observed, that "fashion and economy" must have led the majority away—the physicians have ordered but few, as the waters of Paris seem to be preferred to those of Bruges and Pau.

BIRMINGHAM UNION. We understand that within the last few days, the list of persons who have enrolled themselves as members of the Birmingham Political Union comprises almost exclusively that class of the inhabitants who have hitherto abstained from any expression of the political feeling of the day.—The following letter has been received:—

From Mr Francis Burrett. House of Commons, Feb. 19, 1833. Sir,—Accept with great pleasure the invitation to join the reformers of the important town of Birmingham and shall be happy to co-operate in any way in my power for promoting their great and necessary object. The very distressing manner in which you communicate to me their desire for my co-operation, adds much to the pleasure with which I subscribe myself most truly, Their and your most obedient and humble servant, F. BURRETT.

To Thomas Attwood, Esq. Birmingham. EXTENT OF DISTRESS IN ENGLAND. The following is from the Leeds Mercury of Saturday:—A kind of protest and petition to Parliament is at present in course of signature at York, originating not at a public meeting, but in some bold and corner, in which the distress of the country is described as "universal, unabated, and appalling." Every body who knows any thing of the matter, knows that such a document is indiscriminating and injudicious, and is likely to prove unavailing. Why not meet the subject fairly at once, and go to a County Meeting in Yorkshire, as well as in other counties? We do not mind how loud and incessant the demand for economy and retrenchment is—the more loud and persevering the better—but let it be open and without exaggeration.

THE LATE SERGEANT LEROY.

The report which we noticed yesterday, of the resignation of Sergeant Leroy, in consequence of the selection of his junior, Sergeant Blackburne, as a Judge of Assize, on the Munster Circuit, has proved to be perfectly correct. Mr Leroy is no longer First Sergeant at Law, having given up the coil on Monday afternoon. This event has excited considerable interest, on many accounts; and as much curiosity exists on the subject, we shall inform our readers of the circumstances which led to the retirement of the Learned Sergeant, as they have reached us from an authentic source.

In consequence of the indisposition of Baron McClelland, (who has not yet resigned!) it became necessary to appoint a law officer to go in place of his Lordship. As it was determined in a high quarter that Sergeant Leroy should not be chosen, the Attorney General called upon the Learned Sergeant on Monday morning, in order to communicate the sad tidings in the manner best calculated to give a shock to his sensitive feelings. The Attorney General, without a particle of irony, and with the kindness of heart for which he is so justly distinguished, expressed to his Learned Friend the pleasure he felt at being able to inform him that he would not be required to give up his lucrative professional engagements in the Court of Chancery for the less profitable and more laborious duties of a Judge.

The Attorney General, without a particle of irony, and with the kindness of heart for which he is so justly distinguished, expressed to his Learned Friend the pleasure he felt at being able to inform him that he would not be required to give up his lucrative professional engagements in the Court of Chancery for the less profitable and more laborious duties of a Judge. The Attorney General, without a particle of irony, and with the kindness of heart for which he is so justly distinguished, expressed to his Learned Friend the pleasure he felt at being able to inform him that he would not be required to give up his lucrative professional engagements in the Court of Chancery for the less profitable and more laborious duties of a Judge.

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MR. SERGEANT BLACKBURNE. The Learned Sergeant had his commission appointing him going Judge of Assize, delivered upon Monday, and he left town on that night for Bona, where he will assume the functions of his high office on Thursday.

EXTENSIVE PRIVATE DISTILLERY DETECTED. Mr Henry Smith, Supervisor of this district, accompanied by a party of the 92d Highlanders, detected an illicit still, on the morning of the 24th ult., at Cloneleagh, in this County. Judging by the stability of the works and other indications, it must have been at work for years. The still of 50 gallons contents, worn, and some potent spirits, were brought to the King's stores in Carlow. A large quantity of pot still, barley malt in process, and several utensils, were destroyed on the spot. The owner of the distillery, Moan Doyle, a well known character in this trade, was arrested on the premises, and committed for trial at the ensuing Assizes. From the situation of the distillery, and the number of persons watching on the roads leading to it, there could not have been a detection, but that the party proceeded through a bog, by a mountain, and arrived at three in the morning from a point, whence an attack was never expected.—Carlow Morning Post.

PROJECTED MARRIAGES IN HIGH LIFE. A marriage is reported to be in contemplation between Mr Tisdall, son to Lady Charleville, and the lovely daughter of Lady Sarah Bayley, sister to Lord Anglesea.

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