

observation and research; and by the development of Political Economy we teach the application of scientific principles to social questions.

Whilst we can refer with some satisfaction to the past publications of the Society, as indicating the extent to which the time and attention of our members have been devoted to a consideration of the chief changes that have affected the welfare of our country, we are convinced that so far from having exhausted the field of investigation, we have really only made a commencement in the solution of the great social questions of our times.

We cannot conclude without again acknowledging the courtesy of the Royal Dublin Society, in continuing to us the use of this most eligible place of meeting, and in affording to our proceedings such facilities as are in their power.

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II.—*Address delivered at the opening of the Eighth Session of the Society, by Jonathan Pim, Esq. one of the Vice-Presidents.*

[Read November 20th, 1854.]

Before venturing to ask your attention to the few remarks, which as one of the vice-presidents, I am about to make on the opening of this the eighth session of the Dublin Statistical Society, I must first express my warm acknowledgments for the kindness which has placed me in this honorable position. I feel that I have no claim on account of any services rendered to the cause of science, however sincere have been my desires to assist in promoting the investigation of some of those social and economic questions which are so closely connected with the prosperity of the country.

The changes which have taken place during the seven years which have elapsed since the formation of this Statistical Society have been many and various; and among the most important has been that alteration in public feeling which has disconnected political economy from party politics, and thus permitted us to continue our inquiries into the important truths of this science, without the restraints which prejudice and party considerations had so long imposed upon us.

We are no longer told that the rules of political economy may be very good, but that it will not do to enforce them rigidly under all circumstances; that they may do very well for a prosperous country, but that in Ireland it is quite another affair. Its principles are no longer regarded as arbitrary rules invented by a set of dreaming philosophers, but are generally acknowledged as the natural laws which regulate the material interests of society, and which are therefore fixed and unchangeable as the principles of any other science. It is true that mistakes have frequently been made in the investigation of those laws, and error has thus been mistaken for truth and acted on as such; but these errors have not been

greater or more glaring than those which have been made in other branches of human knowledge, and their effect should be not to discredit economic science, but to make us more cautious lest we attempt to generalize or draw inferences from insufficient data. Happily the prejudices which formerly existed on this subject have in great part passed away. The importance of political economy is admitted, and instead of being treated as an abstract science, and confined to a few learned professors, it is now widely diffused, and applied to the consideration of various social and economic questions of the deepest interest. It has, in fact, become a popular science; now every one is a political economist, and discusses the most important questions, even though he has never studied Adam Smith, or the other learned and laborious writers who have been the pioneers in this department of knowledge.

A few years ago there were many subjects which would not bear discussion in a popular assembly. If any one advocated freedom of trade, the protectionists were up in arms, as though he meant to rob them of their property or vested rights. If he alluded to the necessity of freeing landed property from the trammels with which a complicated legislation had bound it, he was looked at with suspicion as one who wanted to subvert the constitution. If he referred to the hardships often suffered by the tenant farmer, in having no certainty that he should reap the fruits of any labour devoted to the improvement of his farm, he was treated as a demagogue or an enthusiast. If he spoke of the difficulties which are felt by the working classes, or their claims on their employers, and if he offered suggestions for reconciling the ruinous contests which sometimes take place between employers and employed, instead of obtaining consideration for his plans, or being met by fair argument, he was branded as a socialist who sought to sap the foundations of society. Economists might, indeed, discuss the abstract principles of their science, and no one regarded them: but as soon as they proceeded to apply these principles to practical questions, they exposed themselves to obloquy and reproach.

The times are now changed. Some of these questions are so completely settled in public estimation, that scarcely any one is to be found to defend the views which were once so strenuously maintained; and it is universally admitted, that however unsound be the opinions advanced, they must be met by fair argument and by that alone. It is useless to attempt to put them down by ridicule and clamour. They must be subjected to open and calm discussion, and examined on all sides, until the pure truth is stripped of all the disguises which sophistry may have wrapped around it.

The foundation of the chair of Political Economy in the University of Dublin, through the enlightened liberality of the distinguished prelate who presides over this Society, gave the first impulse to the study of economic questions in this country; and this impulse has been ably seconded by the exertions of the learned professors who have successively occupied that chair. The ground was thus prepared for a Statistical Society; so that when it was established, in 1847, many were ready to take part in its proceedings with interest and ability. That interest has been still farther extended, not only by the valuable papers read at our meetings and

distributed among our members, and by the interesting discussions which have frequently taken place, but yet more by the lectures which, under the Barrington trust, have been delivered in various parts of Ireland, diffusing widely a knowledge of these subjects, and popularizing the abstract principles of statistical science.

We have, therefore, reached an important vantage ground, from which we can look back on the progress already made, and which should encourage us to renewed efforts.

Among the various questions which have engaged our attention, I may be permitted to select a few, for the purpose of noting the progress which seems to have been made in public opinion respecting them, and of pointing out some subjects which appear to me worthy of further consideration.

The difficulties into which the country was plunged by the loss of the potato crop in 1846, and the consequent famine in the following year, naturally drew our thoughts to the land question, both as respects the proprietors in fee and the tenants. Some of the most valuable papers read at our meetings have had reference to this subject; which has, indeed, received so much consideration, both among our members and by the public generally, that it may seem impossible to throw any new light on it. It is now universally acknowledged that it is of paramount importance to give facility to the transfer of land, to reduce the legal expenses as much as practicable, and to render the title to property secure and easy to be proved so. The establishment of the Incumbered Estates Court has effected this for the present, but arrangements are still required to prevent future complications. An Act for the registration of titles was passed in 1850, but has never been brought into operation; and it is worthy of examination whether this Act would meet the case, or whether further changes in the modes of conveyance, and in the nature of the deeds under which landed property is held, may not be necessary, in order to facilitate and cheapen transfers and give full security to titles. It has been suggested in several quarters, that the Register itself might be made the universal title deed for all landed property, giving an indefeasible title to him who was inscribed in it as the owner, in much the same manner as now exists in respect to the government funds.

The extension of the duty on successions to real as well as personal property was strongly advocated in a paper read before us. The state of the law with respect to wills and the administration of assets also engaged our attention, and a valuable paper on this subject was published by the "Social Inquiry Society." The objectionable nature of the taxes on law proceedings has been brought before us more than once, and the expediency of freeing the administration of justice from all unnecessary expense was strongly insisted on. The heavy expenses incurred in securing new inventions by means of patents, and the defective state of the law on this subject, early attracted our attention, and an able report was published by the "Social Inquiry Society," giving a clear statement of the law as it then stood, and making suggestions for its amendment, several of which were identical with those subsequently adopted by the legislature.

Our attention has been called on several occasions to the economic principles of taxation. The comparative advantages and disadvantages of direct and indirect taxes have been considered, and the policy of meeting extraordinary expenses by loans or by an immediate increase of taxation has been discussed. The discovery of gold in California and Australia naturally drew attention to the consideration how far the increase of gold might be expected to affect the value of the currency, and whether it would have any effect on the rate of interest. This important question will continue to be regarded as one of great interest to the whole community. The advantages of adopting a decimal division in our coinage, with a view of facilitating the calculation of all monetary transactions was clearly laid before us. It may, perhaps, be worthy consideration whether the full value of this change would be obtained, unless the same principle be adopted in respect to weights and measures also.

The policy of admitting the principle of limited liability in partnerships has latterly engaged a considerable share of public attention, and it has been the subject of two papers read at our meetings. The whole question of partnership appears to me deserving of further attention, especially as respects the legal means of deciding differences between partners, the remedies which the law affords against a fraudulent or dishonest partner, and the necessity of making all the partners individually parties in any legal proceedings between the partnership and the public.

The serious effects which have resulted from some recent disputes in England between employers and their work people, and the distress thereby brought on so many persons, have been universally acknowledged to involve questions of the greatest moment, in the solution of which the future prosperity of the country is deeply concerned. This seems to me to be a subject peculiarly worthy of the close attention of political economists. It may be well to consider whether there be anything in the law, as it now stands, which improperly interferes with the rights of operative artisans, preventing them from testing the principle of co-operative labour, on account of the legal impediments which render it impracticable for any business to be carried on by a large number of partners, whether with limited or unlimited responsibility.

The causes of Pauperism and the most efficient means for its relief are among those subjects which will always press themselves on the attention of thoughtful men. There are many and various questions affecting the welfare of the lower classes, and through them of society at large, which have already received some consideration from us, and which will no doubt continue still to claim the attention of our members. The statistics of crime—the connection of crime with want and ignorance and intemperance—the social evils resulting from crowded lodging-houses—the sanitary condition of the dwellings of the working classes in towns—and the effects of intemperance in magnifying these various evils, itself both the cause and effect of degradation and misery;—these and many kindred subjects afford ample scope for the investigation of the enquirer. He must combine correct observation of statistical facts

with sound reasoning and an impartial desire to elicit the truth, and he will then probably be enabled to throw some light on these important questions, which so closely concern the welfare of society.

It may be interesting to take a rapid glance at the condition of Ireland during the past ten years. At the commencement of this period our country appeared to have entered on a state of progressive improvement. Trade was good, and the prospects of agriculture were encouraging. The general appearance of the country, and especially that of the cities and country towns, gave evident indications of increasing prosperity. Then came the blight of the potato in 1845 and 1846, paralysing industry, and entailing on the peasantry and working classes generally that fearful suffering which those who have witnessed it never can forget. Following this were the gigantic efforts for our relief, the charitable contributions sent from every quarter, the public works, the distribution of food under the "Temporary Relief Act," the extended Poor-law, and, lastly, the "Act for the Sale of Incumbered Estates," under which so large a proportion of the landed property of the country has already passed away from its former owners. At the same time, many of the poorer cottiers and small farmers, unable to pay their rents, were obliged to relinquish their holdings, and others, despairing of the future, left their farms and fled to America, so that the emigration which previously existed was increased three-fold. Many landlords also, availing themselves of the opportunity, dispossessed their tenants for the purpose of consolidating their small holdings into larger farms. The class of small land-holders was thus greatly reduced in number, and many were exposed to severe suffering.

It was at the darkest period of this time of distress and perplexity that the Statistical Society was established, and many of the papers read at its earlier meetings had reference to the depressed condition of the country. This prostration was scarcely at all relieved when, at the close of our second session, in the summer of 1849, Doctor Longfield, in the closely-reasoned and well-timed document added as an appendix to his address, showed us that the capital of the country was but little diminished, that the effects of the failure of our harvest had been to a considerable extent exhausted in the privations which had been endured, and that the excess of suffering was the very reason why that suffering should be of short duration.

In the following year, Colonel Larcom, in the comprehensive review which he took of the state of Ireland, again encouraged us, by showing that the improvement had commenced, though as yet it was scarcely perceptible. He told us that, while the present was dreary, the horizon glowed with hope for the future; that the worst was past, and we might anticipate that a gloomy night would herald in a brighter day. Therefore we should not despair, but exert ourselves, and devote our faculties and energies to the task, looking in confidence for a blessing on our labors. This was in substance the conclusion of Colonel Larcom's animating address, and well has the future fulfilled his expectations, and proved the correctness of Doctor Longfield's reasoning.

It remains for me, by a reference to the recorded statistics of the last two years, to illustrate and establish this position, and for this

purpose I have availed myself of several sources of statistical information, and have made large use of the valuable tables published in "Thom's Statistics of Ireland," a work which, on account of the extent and comprehensiveness of its information, and the accuracy with which it is prepared, is highly creditable both to the editor and to the city in which it is published. Through the kindness of Alexander Thom I have been furnished with some statistics of a later date than have appeared in the ordinary publications.

The first subject which naturally engages our attention is the census taken in 1851. We were well aware that many circumstances had occurred during the ten years between 1841 and 1851 which tended to diminish our numbers; and Colonel Larcom, in the address I have before alluded to, and which was delivered in the summer of 1850, stated his opinion that our numbers in the then approaching census could scarcely exceed, if they equalled, those of 1831, viz. 7,767,401; but none of us were prepared for the extraordinary reduction which was actually exhibited, and which showed the population to be reduced to 6,661,830 persons, being 139,997 less than existed in Ireland thirty years before. The population was in fact less in 1851 than it had been in 1821, and there is every reason to believe that the present numbers, if known, would exhibit a further diminution.

If we compare the census of 1851 with that of 1841, we find a diminution of numbers in every county in Ireland except Dublin and Antrim, the sites respectively of the metropolis, and of Belfast, the seat of the linen manufacture. This diminution amounted to 28 per cent in the province of Connaught, to 23 per cent in Munster, and to about 16 per cent in Leinster and Ulster. A comparison of the last census with that taken in 1821, thirty years before, shows a decrease of numbers in every province except Ulster, viz. :—

Leinster, decrease	--	--	--	85,318
Munster, do.	--	--	--	78,368
Connaught, do.	--	--	--	98,223
				<hr/>
				261,909
Ulster, increase	--	--	--	121,912
				<hr/>
Total decrease,	..			139,997

The statistics of agriculture next demand our notice, exhibiting as they do several points of great interest. Important changes might have been anticipated to result from the altered circumstances of the country. The continued failure of the potato crop broke up the practice of letting land in con-acre. The inability of so many of the smaller tenants to retain possession of their holdings, and the extensive emigration greatly lessened the number of those dependent on agricultural pursuits. The reduced price of grain consequent on the free importation of foreign corn, and the natural advantages of the soil and climate of Ireland peculiarly fitting the country for the rearing and fattening of cattle, when freed from legislative interference, exerted an immediate influence on the mode of cultivation and the nature of the crops cultivated.

By the tables, which are annually published, we see the results as respects the number of holdings. The small farms between one and five acres, (if it be right to call them farms) which numbered 310,375 in 1841, have decreased to nearly one-fourth in 1853, and those between 5 and 15 acres are diminished about thirty per cent.; while the farms of 15 to 30 acres, and of 30 acres and upwards, have been considerably more than doubled during the same period. This alteration took place principally between the years 1841 and 1847. It had commenced before the famine, and it was greatly accelerated by that event. It was during this period that the class of farms between 15 and 30 acres increased so much; but since 1847 they also have been reduced in number, while the number of farms above 30 acres has increased, showing that the consolidation of holdings is still going on, and extending to larger farms than at first.\*

When we look to the quantity of land under the various crops, we find, as might have been expected, when the unnatural stimulus to the cultivation of wheat was withdrawn, that this crop, which occupied 743,871 acres in 1847, was gradually reduced to less than one-half in 1853, while oats and other cereals, to which our soil and climate are better suited, remained at nearly their former extent. The high price of wheat in 1853, however, induced a larger sowing this year, so that the ground occupied by this crop increased to 411,423 acres. The cultivation of potatoes fell off so much in the year succeeding the great blight of 1846, that it only extended to 284,116 acres, but it has increased in the present year to about three and a half times that extent. Turnips and other green crops had last year attained an increase of 75,888 acres, but have again fallen off to somewhat less than they were in 1847. The growth of flax, which seems of so great importance, as supplying the raw material for our staple manufacture, and which has been of late years brought so prominently before the public view, had trebled in extent between 1847 and 1853, when it occupied 174,579 acres; but this year it is again somewhat diminished.†

The great diminution in the number of holdings, the increase of large farms, and also the changes in the kind of crops cultivated, indicate an increased attention to the rearing of cattle and other domestic animals, and accordingly we find that the value of the farm stock has risen from £21,105,808 in 1841 to £31,844,718 in 1853, being an increase of 50 per cent. This is, indeed, a gratifying fact, showing so large an increase of the capital of those engaged in farming, notwithstanding the great diminution in their numbers. It proves that individually the holders of farms must now be, on the average, in a much better position than they were in 1841. If we refer to the particulars of this farm stock, we find the chief increase to be in cattle, the numbers of which are not far from being doubled, having risen from 1,863,116 to 3,383,309. Sheep were at first reduced in number, but reached their minimum in 1849, since which time they have nearly doubled; and in 1853 they amounted to 3,142,656, which is 1,036,467 more

\* See Appendix A.

† See Appendix B.

than they numbered in 1841. A nearly similar remark may be made as respects pigs and poultry, both of which fell off greatly after the failure of the potato crop, in consequence of the inability of the poorer part of the peasantry to keep them. They reached the lowest point in 1847, the number of pigs being then only 622,459, which was less than half the enumeration in 1841; but both have increased since that time, and are now nearly the same as they were before the famine.\*

It is important to note that, by the return of the Census Commissioners, it appears that the amount of arable land in Ireland has been increased from 13,464,300 acres in 1841 to 14,802,581 acres in 1851, thus showing that 1,338,281 acres have been reclaimed from waste, or greatly improved in value, during this interval of ten years, by which a large amount has been added to the capital of the country.

The reduction in the number of small holdings naturally leads us to enquire where the tenants are gone. Some of them, no doubt, have fallen victims to famine, or to the diseases resulting from want of sufficient food. Some have sought an asylum in the work-houses. Many have betaken themselves to our larger towns and cities, and have looked to the wages of daily labour for the support of their families, or have gone over to England in the hopes of obtaining employment. A very large number have crossed the Atlantic, swelling the tide of emigration which has astonished both these countries and America.

Even before the failure of the potato crop, the amount of emigration was considerable; and it appeared decidedly on the increase, having nearly doubled in 1845 what it had been 1843. But the results of the failure of the potatoes gave a sudden impulse, which rendered the emigration of 1847 nearly treble that of 1845, having reached, according to the estimate of the emigration commissioners, the unprecedented number of 219,885 persons. Since that time the annual numbers have not varied very much; and having apparently attained their highest limit in 1851, which has been estimated at 254,537, they now appear to be on the decline. It is evident that such an emigration cannot keep up for many years. It corrects itself both by the increased supply of labour in America lessening the facility of obtaining employment for those who go there, and by the improved demand for labour in Ireland raising the rate of wages in this country. So far as it has gone, we must consider it as having been advantageous under the circumstances, relieving us of the dead weight of so many persons who could not find employment here, and enabling them, in another land, to procure the necessaries, and often the comforts and even the luxuries of life.

One circumstance connected with emigration deserves especial notice, because it is so creditable to the character of our countrymen, distinguishing them honourably from the emigrants of every other country. The number of small remittances sent back from America, by the Irish emigrants, will at once recur to your thoughts. I believe this subject was first brought under public notice by my

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\* See Appendix C.



The statistics of poor-law expenditure afford melancholy proof of the extent of destitution occasioned by the failure of the potato crop. The full effect was not experienced during the year of famine, because the destitution was relieved principally by the large expenditure on the Public Works, and afterwards by the distribution of food under the "Temporary Relief Act." Still the expenditure under the Poor-law, which had been £435,001 in 1846, was nearly doubled in the following year, and more than quadrupled in 1848. It reached its highest point in 1849, when it amounted to £2,177,651 expended in the relief of 932,284 persons within the walls of the workhouses, and 1,210,482 persons receiving out-door relief. Since that period the expenditure has regularly diminished, and amounted in the year ending 29th September, 1853, to only £785,718; the numbers relieved being 396,436 in-doors, and 13,232 out of doors. During the present year the number of in-door paupers, when at its highest, amounted to only 116,033; and of these about two-fifths were children, and more than one-fifth were sick persons in the workhouse hospitals. These statistics must be considered highly satisfactory, shewing that the pauperism occasioned by the famine has been so much diminished, and giving us reason to expect that next year it will be still farther reduced.\*

The next subject which I wish to bring before your notice is the transfers of stock between England and Ireland. Your attention was called to this subject by Doctor Longfield in his address in 1849, for the purpose of shewing that the amount of funded property held by residents in Ireland still continued to increase, notwithstanding the distressed condition of the country. The figures then produced by Doctor Longfield shewed that the balance of transfers, which for many years had been uniformly in favour of Ireland, had exceeded a million sterling annually, from 1844 to 1848. He says, "This balance in favour of Ireland is an increase of Irish wealth to that amount. It also shews that, in Ireland, capital is not so much wanted as the means of employing it, since every year there is a steady flow from Ireland to England of capital seeking for investment." In the year 1849 a remarkable change took place. The balance of transfers was reversed, and for the first time for several years appeared against Ireland. In the four years, 1849 to 1852, the balance of stock transferred to England amounted to £2,525,090. You will not, I am sure, attribute this to a reduction of Irish capital; but seeing how accurately it coincides with the sales of property under the Incumbered Estates Court, you will recognise the correctness of Doctor Longfield's remark, that it was not capital we wanted so much as the means of employing it. Last year, the balance was again in favour of Ireland to the extent of £1,556,592.

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\* See Appendix D.

*Account of Stock transferred to and from England and Ireland,  
in the years 1844 to 1853 inclusive.*

	From England to Ireland.			From Ireland to England.			Balance transf'd. to Ireland.			Balance transf'd. to England.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1844	1,459,597	5	0	326,439	18	10	1,133,157	6	2	..	..	..
1845	1,834,630	2	11	196,801	1	7	1,637,829	1	4	..	..	..
1846	1,350,547	12	10	245,881	0	3	1,104,666	12	7	..	..	..
1847	2,644,854	1	3	1,384,482	15	8	1,260,371	5	7	..	..	..
1848	1,990,949	9	10	1,693,578	19	1	1,297,370	10	9	..	..	..
1849	1,161,518	12	1	1,972,276	13	1	..	..	..	810,758	1	0
1850	1,131,307	18	5	1,175,831	10	3	..	..	..	44,523	11	10
1851	1,022,521	13	11	756,294	18	11	266,226	15	0	..	..	..
1852	722,122	12	3	2,658,157	14	10	..	..	..	1,936,035	2	7
1853	2,323,476	0	3	766,883	9	11	1,556,592	10	4	..	..	..

The business done in the Incumbered Estates Court, from its establishment to the present time, as exhibited in a statement of its transactions, from year to year, with which I have been kindly furnished by the officers of the Court, affords ample proof of the necessity which existed for this summary mode of facilitating the sale of landed property in Ireland. The petitions presented during the two first years were, as might reasonably be expected, much more numerous than they have been since, but they still continue, and amounted during the year ending 31st July last to 414. I need not allude to particulars which are so generally known, further than to state that the gross proceeds of the property sold prior to last vacation was £13,009,293, and the estimated extent was about 2,000,000 acres, being about one-tenth of the whole surface of the country. You must all remember how much used to be said of the want of capital in Ireland; how confidently it was predicted that, unless English purchasers could be found, the property must remain unsold; and how any suggestion of a contrary character was received with incredulity or derision. Yet now we find that there were only 217 purchasers who were not residents in Ireland, and that the amount of purchase money paid by them was only £2,249,040, being about one-sixth of the whole. No second opinion now exists as to the important effects which the sales under this Court have had in promoting the prosperity of Ireland; and it is universally acknowledged that the principles on which its proceedings are based, ought to be perpetuated. The records of the Court shew that one-fourth of the petitions presented were lodged by owners for the sale of their own estates, and it appears that this proportion has been increasing; so that, of the last hundred petitions more than half were lodged by owners. This is a satisfactory evidence that the value of the Incumbered Estates Court is increasingly appreciated, as it results from the fact,

that many landed proprietors avail themselves of the facilities it affords to free themselves from pecuniary difficulties by the sale of part of their estates. Such men will be really richer as the possessors of smaller but unincumbered properties, than they were when the nominal but embarrassed owners of extensive estates.\*

The statistics of crime afford us matter for painful reflection, and also, when duly considered, for congratulation. We see the sad effects of the demoralization produced by the famine, in the great and sudden increase of criminals committed for trial at the assizes and quarter-sessions, the number of commitments rising from 16,696 in 1845 to 41,989 in 1849; but it is gratifying to find that since that year they have been regularly diminishing, and were only 15,144 in 1853. If we analyse these statistics more closely, we find that the great increase of commitments was not for offences of the gravest character. Those for offences against the person remained very much the same from 1844 to 1849; but have since diminished to less than one-half. For offences against property, whether with or without violence, the commitments increased largely during the same period; those for offences with violence having considerably more than doubled, while those for offences without violence were nearly quadrupled. The great destitution which prevailed during 1847, 1848, and 1849, will fully account for this increase. We cannot feel surprised that it should have taken place; but we are gratified by seeing that, during the last four years, there has been a constant diminution in the number of commitments for these offences, so that last year they exceeded those of 1844 by about one-third only, and I trust this reduction of numbers may still continue.

It must, nevertheless, be observed that the greater power for summary conviction, conferred upon magistrates some few years since, has tended to lessen the number of cases committed for trial; and we find, accordingly, that the summary convictions have increased during the last five years, and that they do not as yet exhibit any diminution. This increase does not, however, denote an increase of crime to the same extent, as a considerable portion of it has, undoubtedly, arisen from the more stringent carrying out of the vagrant act, and the increased activity of the contabulary, who have been enabled, by the diminution of serious crimes and outrages, to devote more attention to offences of a lighter character. It appears by the reports of the Inspectors-General of prisons, that the daily average of persons confined in our jails during the year 1847 was nearly double what it had been for the three years ending in 1846; and that in the year 1849 it had increased to nearly three times the average of the earlier period. It is satisfactory to find that last year it was reduced to little more than half what it had been in 1849, although it still remained to be an advance of 50 per cent. over the average number of prisoners for the three years ending 1846; and this notwithstanding the great

\* See Appendix E.

reduction which our population has experienced. On this point the Inspectors-General, in their report for last year, remark that "This advance affords a melancholy proof of the demoralization and debasement which necessarily continue to affect the social system, long after the cessation of the calamity by which they were generated."

The great increase which has taken place in the number of youthful criminals is particularly to be deplored. It appears by the Reports already alluded to, that the commitments for trial of persons under sixteen, and between sixteen and twenty-one, although diminished in absolute amount, have yet continued to bear an increasing ratio to the whole number of commitments, having been about one-fifth of the whole in 1846, and almost exactly one-third in 1853. We must recognize this increase as among the most serious effects of the famine; and as calling imperatively for public attention.

It is deserving of notice, as a proof of the more efficient administration of justice, that the proportion of convictions to commitments has increased, during the past ten years, from 41 to 57 per cent.

When entering on any consideration of criminal statistics, the mind naturally recurs to those cases in which the extreme penalty of the law was suffered. On this point we cannot draw any particular inference from the last ten years. The annual average of executions has been nearly ten, having varied from two in 1851, to fifteen in 1849; and even twenty-eight in the year 1848. But if we refer to still earlier periods we find much cause for congratulation, for taking the four years, 1831 to 1834, we find the average to be thirty-nine; and it becomes still heavier as we carry our enquiries farther back.\*

Among the proofs of prosperity most commonly relied on, is the increase in the number of marriages. I have therefore referred to the report of the Registrar-General, which shews an increase of about nine per cent. when comparing the marriages of 1846 with those registered in 1853; but as the marriages which come under his cognizance are only those of a portion of the inhabitants of Ireland, the statistics which he is enabled to furnish are comparatively of little value. On this subject I refer to the opinions expressed by Sir Robert Kane, in his Address to you when opening the session of 1851. He says, "The want of official registration of the marriages of the great mass of the inhabitants of this country I look upon as not merely destroying all value in the returns of our talented Registrar-General, as statistical documents; but also as a great injury and injustice to those classes of her Majesty's subjects, who are thus deprived of an important safeguard to their property, and to the moral position of their families." A general official registration of marriages, births, and deaths, is not merely interesting, as affording statistical information, but is frequently of great importance for facilitating the ends of justice, and for the protection of property and good morals. I should

\* See Appendix F.

regret any legislation which would derogate from the sacred character of marriage as a religious contract. It is the most important event in the life of man, and we do well to invest it with all the sacredness which religion can confer. Objections on this account deserve respect, and I trust that, while due respect is paid to them, means will yet be devised to secure the advantages of a general registration of all marriages. As respects births and deaths, there ought not, I think, to be any difficulty.

*Number of Marriages registered in Ireland in the years 1845 to 1853, inclusive.*

	According to rites of Established Church.	Not according to rites of Estab. Church.	Total.	Per centage of signatures with marks.	
				Men.	Women.
9 Months of					
1845	4,118	1,996	6,114	19.45	36.36
1846	5,760	3,584	9,344	18.07	36.25
1847	4,321	2,622	6,943	15.51	32.55
1848	5,313	3,735	9,048	19.86	37.43
1849	5,324	4,169	9,493	22.08	41.31
1850	5,387	4,394	9,781	24.81	44.82
1851	5,201	4,138	9,339	24.82	43.23
1852	5,365	4,122	9,487	26.27	44.64
1853	5,562	4,635	10,197	26.73	45.19

The value of statistical information is now universally recognised, as affording the only certain means of ascertaining the progress of the various interests of the community, and the surest guide in attempting to remedy the defects which may exist. Allow me to recall to your recollection the strikingly apposite expressions made use of by the Earl of Clarendon, when addressing you in this room on a former occasion. He said:—"I consider that statistical facts, carefully collected and digested, rank in the highest class of useful knowledge. To those to whom the arduous and responsible labour of government is intrusted, and to those on whom devolves the grave task of making laws, the possession of statistical knowledge is indispensable; it is the key to all that is passing around us; it is the pulse by which the moral, intellectual, and industrial vigour or decline of the community must be judged." Ireland possesses a valuable body of statistics—in the carefully prepared returns of the census, with its minute and comprehensive details on so many points affecting the well-being of the people, and in those annual returns which indicate the condition and progress of her agriculture, the amount and value of each successive harvest, and the number of the flocks and herds pastured in her fields. It is, therefore, the more to be regretted that this information is left incomplete, for want of those statistics which shew the progress of human life from year to year; and which are peculiarly valuable, not only for considerations of property and good morals, but also as indicating the state of health and of disease, and affording data for those sanitary improvements which tend so much to the welfare of the people.

One portion of the Registrar-General's statistics certainly surprised me. I refer to the number of persons who signed the marriage registers

with marks, which amounted to 26 per cent. of the men who were married in 1853, and 45 per cent. of the women; and this per centage of those unable or unwilling to sign their own names on such an occasion appears to have increased pretty regularly since the first registration of marriages in 1845. Can we believe that nearly one-half of the women whose marriages have been registered were unable to write, and that the proportion of ignorance is increasing instead of diminishing?\*

The returns of the schools connected with the Board of National Education and with the Church Education Society, shew the number of children on their books during the year 1853 to have been 550,631 and 99,234 respectively; but as these returns give merely the number on the rolls, and do not state the actual attendance, I cannot draw any certain conclusions from them.

*Number of Schools in connection with the Board of National Education and the Church Education Society respectively, with the number of Children on the rolls, for the years 1844 to 1853 inclusive.*

	National Board.				Church Education Society.			
	Schools.		Children.		Schools.		Children.	
1844	--	3,153	--	395,550	--	1,812	--	104,968
1845	--	3,426	--	432,844	--	1,811	--	100,755
1846	--	3,637	--	456,410	--	1,809	--	96,815
1847	--	3,825	--	402,632	--	1,859	--	116,968
1848	--	4,109	--	507,469	--	1,861	--	120,202
1849	--	4,321	--	480,623	--	1,868	--	111,877
1850	--	4,547	--	511,239	--	1,882	--	108,450
1851	--	4,704	--	520,401	--	1,885	--	103,878
1852	--	4,875	--	544,604	--	1,858	--	105,387
1853	--	5,023	--	550,631	--	1,880	--	99,234

The next subject to which I wish to direct your attention, as an indication of improvement, is the amount of shipping which entered and left the ports of Ireland during the past ten years. In looking at the statistical returns on this subject, we are at once struck by the increase of foreign trade which took place in 1847, consequent on the abolition of the corn and navigation laws, and the necessity of importing corn for our own consumption. This increased trade has not been maintained to quite the same extent, yet the foreign trade of Ireland appears to have been in 1853 more than five times as large as

\* The proportion in each of the four provinces appears to be as follows:—

	Number of Marriages.	Proportion per cent. of signatures by marks.	
		Men.	Women.
Ulster	7,243	-- 32·62	-- 53·69
Leinster	1,742	-- 10·27	-- 20·26
Connnaught	345	-- 15·36	-- 28·40
Munster	867	-- 15·11	-- 31·03
Total	10,197	-- 26·73	-- 45·19

As the marriages of Roman Catholics are not included in the above, the excess of signatures with marks in Ulster, when compared with either of the other three provinces, may be accounted for by the fact that there is in that province a larger proportion of Protestants of the working classes. The proportion of signatures with marks in England appears, by the report of the Registrar-General for 1851, to have been 30·76 per cent. of men and 45·27 per cent. of women.

it was in 1844. Our trade with the colonies appears, on the contrary, to have fallen off about 20 per cent. during the same period. As respects the trade with Great Britain and the coasting trade, that portion which is carried on by sailing vessels is only slightly increased; but the tonnage of the steam vessels which entered inwards and outwards in 1853 was nearly double that entered in 1844, being considerably more than the tonnage of the sailing vessels entered. The tonnage of the vessels registered as being owned in Ireland has also increased nearly 25 per cent. during the ten years.\*

The only statistical records that I am aware of, by which we may venture to estimate the internal trade of the country, are the returns of bank notes in circulation. Robert Murray, of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, has favored me with the averages from the beginning of the year 1846, when the act requiring such returns first took effect, up to present time. The circulation in 1846 amounted to £7,265,721, giving proof of the prosperous state of trade before the blight of the potato. Next year it fell off nearly a million and a-half, and it decreased a million more in 1848. The lowest average was reached in 1849, being then only £4,310,283. It remained without much change up to 1852, but has increased rapidly during last year and the ten months of the present year which are past, the average of which has been £6,223,811. The circulation has therefore increased nearly 50 per cent. from the lowest point; but our internal trade is still carried on by means of a note circulation, which is one million less than was required in 1846.

*Annual average of the sum total of the returns of the several Banks of Issue in Ireland, as respects their note circulation in the years 1840 to 1853, with the average of the first ten months of 1854.*

	Notes in circulation.		
1846	--	--	£7,265,721
1847	--	--	£5,830,425
1848	--	--	£4,823,992
1849	--	--	£4,310,283
1850	--	--	£4,512,443
1851	--	--	£4,462,909
1852	--	--	£4,818,238
1853	--	--	£5,650,454
1854	--	--	£6,223,811

Through the kindness of James McAdam, secretary to the Flax Improvement Society, I have been furnished with some interesting information respecting the linen manufacture, which shows its progress during the past twelve years to have been very great. In the year 1841 there were in Ireland 41 flax-spinning mills, containing 260,000 spindles. These were increased by the end of last year to 88 mills, containing 580,684 spindles. The number of workpeople in the flax-spinning mills has been estimated at 23,000, the wages paid annually at £360,000, and the amount of capital sunk in buildings and machinery as exceeding £2,300,000. The newest feature in the Irish linen manufacture is the introduction of power-looms,

\* See Appendix G.

which has been hastened by the want of sufficient hand-loom weavers to supply the increasing trade. The exports of flax, yarn, and linen goods exceed £4,500,000. Part of these exports is for consumption in England, but the great mass is shipped to foreign countries, chiefly through Liverpool and Glasgow. The annual manufacture of linens of all kinds in Ireland may be roughly estimated at 160,000,000 of yards. At present this branch of manufacture is very much depressed, owing principally to the great increase of spinning machinery in 1852 and 1853. These years added one-fifth to the amount of machinery previously in use, and of course produced one-fifth more yarns, which, when woven and exported, have glutted foreign markets. Yet we may well believe that the steady increase in the consumption of linen goods abroad will, in two or three years, absorb this increase, and bring the production and consumption once more into equilibrium.

The manufacture of linen is so much the most important of those which Ireland possesses, that it may seem unnecessary to advert to any other; yet I must not omit all reference to the manufacture of sewed muslins, which has been so much increased in Ireland during the last ten years, that we scarcely recognize its previous existence. It has been computed that these elegant fabrics give employment to about 300,000 persons, who receive about £30,000 weekly in wages. I know not that there are any reliable data for such an estimate, and I am inclined to think it must be much beyond the truth. Still the manufacture is unquestionably a very important one, and it is the more to be valued because it is for the most part carried on by women and children at their own homes, and affords remunerative occupation for small portions of time, which, in many cases, would otherwise be wasted.

In estimating the prosperity of any country, the most important object of inquiry is the comfort of the people, which is, perhaps, best indicated by their consumption of those articles which are in general use, but not of absolute necessity. The amount of custom or excise duties paid in Ireland does not afford us any data in this respect, because the great proportion of many articles of consumption comes over from England duty paid. There is, however, one article, the duty of which is almost invariably paid in Ireland, and which, from its nature, is perhaps the very best criterion of the capability of the middle and lower classes to obtain the comforts of life. I refer to tea, of which the quantities cleared in the years 1842 to 1853 inclusive, afford a striking illustration of the condition of the people. We first find a regular increase of consumption of about nine per cent. annually from 1842 to 1846; then the effects of the famine are shewn by a slight retrogression for the five following years, and in 1852 the consumption becomes almost the same as that of 1846. Last year it again increased by nearly one-seventh, having amounted to 7,859,754 lbs., being 2,924,102 lbs. more than had been used in 1842; or, taking the diminution of the population into account, making the consumption for each inhabitant of Ireland nearly double what it had been in the former period.



*Statement of the quantity of Tea cleared in Ireland for home consumption  
in the years 1842 to 1853 inclusive.*

1842	--	--	4,935,652	pounds.
1843	--	--	5,364,244	"
1844	--	--	5,791,943	"
1845	--	--	6,511,474	"
1846	--	--	6,899,980	"
1847	--	--	6,370,965	"
1848	--	--	6,724,876	"
1849	--	--	6,435,552	"
1850	--	--	6,409,704	"
1851	--	--	6,573,280	"
1852	--	--	6,904,116	"
1853	--	--	7,859,754	"

The view which I have now taken of the state of our country is founded principally on the records of the past. I have noticed only those circumstances which are peculiar to Ireland, and have not thought it any part of my province to refer to the possible future effects of the great contest in which this empire is at present engaged. Hitherto its effects on our trade or our internal concerns have been scarcely appreciable. But we cannot conceal from ourselves that the war, if long continued, must have an important influence on the condition of our country, which may, to some extent, modify the conclusions at which I have arrived. It is well, however, to consider our present circumstances, irrespective of any external cause which may hereafter affect them; and it is satisfactory to know, that so far as internal affairs are concerned, the resources of the country appear to be progressively improving.

In this review of the state of Ireland, as exhibited in the statistical returns referred to, we find the population greatly diminished since 1841; but those that remain appear to be in decidedly better circumstances. We find the number of small holdings very much less, while farms of thirty acres and upwards have been more than trebled in number, thus affording better scope for the pursuit of agriculture as a science, and increasing the number of farms which are suited to the rearing and fattening of cattle. The value of farm stock appears to have increased fifty per cent., which, taken in connection with the diminished population, makes the average value of stock for each inhabitant of the country nearly double what it was in 1841. The extent of arable land itself has been largely increased, thus adding considerably to our fixed capital. The savings of our poorer classes were sadly diminished in 1847 and 1848; but even this fund appears to be now gradually on the increase. The enormous amount of destitution arising from the famine has been fairly met. The number of paupers in the workhouses is greatly reduced, and this reduction seems likely to progress still farther. We may consider the danger in this respect as over, and the expenses which we are now called on to bear can hardly be deemed excessive. The Incumbered Estates Court has freed a large portion of the landed property of the country from the complicated difficulties arising from embarrassed proprietors, Chancery management, and a pauper tenantry. Many of the purchasers have spent and are spending large sums of money in the improvement of their estates.

Crime, which had been greatly increased by the effects of the famine, has been considerably reduced in amount, and appears now to be progressively diminishing. The returns of shipping shew that commerce has increased. We have sufficient evidence to prove the growth of our internal trade and of our manufacturing industry. The greatly increased consumption of tea amply demonstrates that the comforts and luxuries of the middle and lower classes have kept pace with our progress in other respects.

But what is yet more indicative of improvement, the political agitation which once engrossed our thoughts, is now so much diminished that it is almost forgotten. We no longer seek regeneration in great political changes; and in proportion as we have lost faith in the nostrums of politicians, we have learned to rely on ourselves. We have acquired more independence, more self-reliance. The greater facilities for employing it, have brought forward Irish capital, and dispelled for ever the illusion that English money was essential to the progress of our country. We now feel that the improvement of Ireland must depend on the energy, the skill, and the industry of her own sons. It is neither assistance nor protection that we require from the legislature, but the removal of any impediments to our exertions which may still remain from antiquated or defective laws. We want "a fair field and no favor," and we confide the future well-being of our country to the blessing of Providence upon our honest and persevering industry.

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### APPENDIX A.—NUMBER OF HOLDINGS.

*Statement shewing the diminution in the number of small holdings in Ireland, between 1841 and 1853, and the increase of larger holdings during the same period.*

HOLDINGS.	1841.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.
1 acre and under .....	Unknown	62,447	44,262	81,989	35,326	37,728	35,058	35,795
Above 1 acre to 5 acres .....	310,375	125,926	101,779	98,179	91,618	88,083	81,561	79,418
Above 5 acres to 15 acres .....	252,778	253,650	225,251	213,897	203,331	191,854	182,308	178,701
Above 15 acres to 30 acres .....	79,338	150,999	146,725	150,120	145,380	141,311	139,136	138,864
Above 30 acres .....	48,623	137,147	140,817	156,960	152,567	149,090	151,408	152,571
TOTAL .....	691,114	730,149	658,834	651,145	628,222	608,066	589,471	585,349

### APPENDIX B.—EXTENT OF LAND UNDER CROPS.

*Statement shewing the extent of Land under Crops in Ireland, in the year 1847, and the years 1849 to 1854, inclusive.*

	1847.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Wheat.....	743,871	687,646	604,867	504,248	353,566	326,896	411,423
Oats and other cereals.....	2,569,708	2,486,778	2,544,689	2,505,153	2,623,040	2,506,491	2,350,731
Potatoes.....	284,116	718,608	875,357	868,501	876,532	898,733	980,435
Turnips and other green crops	443,622	449,031	442,215	504,105	478,355	519,510	428,098
Flax.....	58,312	60,314	91,040	140,536	137,008	174,579	150,972
Meadow.....	1,138,946	1,141,371	1,200,124	1,246,408	1,270,713	1,270,742	1,257,717
TOTAL.....	5,238,575	5,543,748	5,758,292	5,858,951	5,739,214	5,696,951	5,568,376

## APPENDIX C.—FARM STOCK.

*Statement shewing the number of holdings in Ireland exceeding one acre, and the Stock thereon and value of same, in the years 1841 and 1847, and the years 1849 to 1853 inclusive.*

	No. of Holdings.	Horses and Mules.	Asses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.	Poultry.	Value.	Value of Stock in possession of persons without land or whose holdings do not exceed 1 acre.	Total Value of Stock.
									£	£	£
1841	691,114	576,115	92,365	1,863,116	2,106,189	1,412,813	Not taken.	8,458,517	19,399,843	1,705,965	21,105,808
1847	723,523	557,917	126,355	2,591,415	2,186,177	622,459	164,043	5,691,055	24,359,812	460,735	24,820,547
1849	619,027	548,288	117,939	2,771,139	1,777,111	795,463	182,988	6,328,001	25,213,666	478,950	25,692,616
1850	592,896	548,719	123,412	2,917,949	1,876,096	927,502	201,112	6,945,146	26,519,577	432,382	26,951,959
1851	570,338	543,312	136,981	2,967,461	2,122,128	1,084,857	235,313	7,470,694	27,326,150	411,243	27,737,393
1852	554,413	545,900	144,120	3,095,067	2,613,945	1,072,658	278,444	8,173,904	28,701,693	462,536	29,164,229
1853	549,554	561,100	148,720	3,383,309	3,142,656	1,144,945	296,182	8,660,738	31,458,785	385,933	31,844,718

## APPENDIX D.—POOR-LAW RELIEF.

*Statement shewing the expenditure under the law for the relief of the Poor in Ireland, from the year 1844 to 1853. with the numbers relieved, and other particulars.*

Year ending 29th Sep.	Expenditure.	Number of Paupers relieved.			Maximum number relieved.				Minimum number Relieved.			
		In Workhouses.	Out of Workhouses.	Total.	In Workhouses.	Date of maximum.	Out of Workhouses.	Date of maximum.	In Workhouses.	Date of minimum.	Out of Workhouses.	Date of minimum.
	£											
1844	271,384	105,358	nil	105,358	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1845	316,025	114,205	nil	114,205	43,947	14th Feb.	nil	..	33,835	26th Sept.	nil	..
1846	435,001	243,933	nil	243,933	96,248	26th Dec.	nil	..	42,645	2nd Jan.	nil	..
1847	803,686	417,139	nil	417,139	119,628	11th Dec.	nil	..	75,376	4th Sept.	nil	..
1848	1,835,634	610,463	1,433,042	2,043,505	185,825	30th Dec.	833,889	1st July.	107,320	9th Sept.	199,603	7th Oct.
1849	2,177,651	932,284	1,210,482	2,142,766	227,329	16th June.	784,367	7th July.	140,266	6th Oct.	95,443	8th Dec.
1850	1,430,108	805,702	368,565	1,174,267	264,048	22nd June.	148,909	23rd Feb.	155,173	28th Sept.	2,249	19th Oct.
1851	1,141,647	707,443	47,914	755,357	265,170	21st June.	19,979	14th June.	140,031	27th Sept.	2,719	4th Jan.
1852	883,267	504,864	14,911	519,775	196,966	21st Feb.	3,757	19th June.	111,117	18th Sept.	2,485	18th Sept.
1853	785,718	396,436	13,232	409,668	160,774	19th Feb.	4,152	26th Feb.	79,410	24th Sept.	1,761	5th Nov.
1854	..	..	..	..	116,033	11th Feb.	2,477	21st Jan.	..	..	..	..

## APPENDIX E.—INCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.

*Short result of Proceedings from the filing of the first petition on the 21st October, 1849, to the end of the last session of the sittings of the Commissioners, viz., 31st July, 1854.*

Progressive Periods.	Number of Petitions lodged.	Number of absolute orders for sale.	Number of estates, or parts of estates, sold.	Number of lots sold.	Number of conveyances executed.	Estimated extent of land sold.	Estimated gross rental of property sold.	Amount of purchase-money of property sold.	ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE.	
									Amount of lodgments by purchasers, including lodgments of stock.	Amount distributed in cash and stock, including credits to incumberances who purchased.
						Acres.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
21st Oct. 1849, to 31st July, 1850	1,085	661	92	400	62			1,671,731 1 10	498,149 6 3	225,372 15 0
1st Aug. 1850, to 31st July, 1851	801	542	335	1,531	602			3,172,195 9 0	2,069,374 2 8	1,205,621 19 6
1st Aug. 1851, to 31st July, 1852	503	489	341	2,097	1,588			3,222,219 19 0	2,779,838 14 3	2,618,849 15 10
1st Aug. 1852, to 31st July, 1853	488	391	326	1,840	1,369			3,207,421 1 8	3,763,761 2 8	3,434,579 18 2
1st Aug. 1853, to 31st July, 1854	414	383	297	1,280	964			1,735,725 11 11	3,006,319 1 9	3,201,700 7 0
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>3,291*</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>4,385</b>	<b>2,000,000 †</b>	<b>950,000 †</b>	<b>13,009,293 3 5</b>	<b>12,118,042 7 7‡</b>	<b>10,686,124 15 6§</b>

THOMSON SEED, Accountant.

Number of English, Scotch, and Foreign purchasers .....	217.
Estimated extent of land bought by them .....	550,000 acres
Purchase-money paid by them .....	£2,249,040 12s. 6d.
Number of cases in which owners presented petitions .....	823 ¶
Number of cases in which owners were bankrupt or insolvent when petitions were presented .....	309 ¶
Number of cases which had been pending in the Court of Chancery before being brought into the Incumbered Estates Court .....	1,132.

\* Of these petitions about 470 were supplemental, or were dismissed by the Commissioners.

† The estimated extent of land, and the estimated gross rental of property sold, can only be considered as approximations to the real amounts. The private sales did not always afford data to calculate either acreage or rentals; and in several instances the acreage has been repeated, by the sale of derivative interests in portions of the same estate of which the fee has been sold on a different occasion. In a few cases the fee of the same estate has been twice sold. The gross rental is subject to many deductions—for head, crown, and quit rents, and title rent-charge, and also for jointures and annuities. It is, therefore, impracticable to state the net amount of the rentals so as to ascertain the number of years purchase at which the properties have been sold.

‡ The difference between the amount of the purchase-money and the amount of lodgments made by purchasers arises from provisional credits not yet made absolute, and from the purchase-money of many recent sales not having been yet lodged.

§ The difference between the amount of lodgments and the amount distributed arises from:—funds allocated in trust; payments ordered by the Commissioners and not yet called for by the parties entitled thereto; provisional credits not yet made absolute; and the balance of cash and Government stock standing to the credit of the Commissioners in the Bank of Ireland, on account of cases not yet fully adjudicated on.

¶ Of the first hundred petitions, six were presented by owners. Of the last hundred petitions, the owners of the properties presented fifty-one.

¶ In several other cases the owners of the property became insolvents or bankrupts after petitions had been presented, and the proceedings were subsequently carried on in the names of their assignees.

Nov. 1854.

C. M. ORMSBY,  
Statistics Office.

## APPENDIX F.—C R I M E .

*Statistics taken from the Criminal Returns and the Reports of the Inspectors of Prisons, for the years 1844 to 1853, inclusive.*

	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.
<b>OFFENCES.</b>										
Offences against the person, with violence ..	5,482	4,827	5,110	4,549	5,966	5,275	4,202	2,930	2,654	2,423
Offences against property, with violence .. ..	1,058	1,112	1,297	2,229	2,561	2,682	2,224	2,215	1,620	1,403
Offences against property, without violence ..	6,377	5,686	6,603	17,484	19,547	23,173	16,737	14,029	9,751	8,345
Malicious offences against property .. ..	211	216	191	321	926	707	462	361	313	135
Forgery and offences against the currency ..	123	86	99	183	202	271	250	244	236	188
Miscellaneous Offences .. .. .	6,197	4,769	5,192	6,443	9,320	9,881	7,451	4,905	3,104	2,650
<b>Total commitments .. .. .</b>	<b>19,448</b>	<b>16,696</b>	<b>18,492</b>	<b>31,209</b>	<b>38,522</b>	<b>41,989</b>	<b>31,326</b>	<b>24,684</b>	<b>17,678</b>	<b>15,144</b>
<b>CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES.</b>										
Death .. .. .	20	13	14	25	60	38	17	17	22	15
Transportation for various periods .. .. .	700	615	703	2,185	2,698	3,050	1,849	1,978	1,411	973
Imprisonment for various periods, exceeding six } months. .. .. .	648	649	954	1,781	1,679	2,074	1,917	1,754	1,349	1,379
Imprisonment for six months and under, and } other light punishments .. .. .	6,674	5,824	6,968	11,242	13,769	16,040	13,325	10,628	7,672	6,347
<b>Total Convictions .. .. .</b>	<b>8,042</b>	<b>7,101</b>	<b>8,639</b>	<b>15,233</b>	<b>18,206</b>	<b>21,202</b>	<b>17,108</b>	<b>14,377</b>	<b>10,454</b>	<b>8,714</b>

APPENDIX F., *continued*.—C R I M E .

*Statistics taken from the Criminal Returns and the Reports of the Inspectors of Prisons, for the years 1844 to 1853, inclusive.*

	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.
Proportion per cent of Convictions to Commitments	41.13	42.53	46.72	48.81	47.26	50.49	54.61	58.24	59.13	57.54
Executions .. .. .	11	3	7	8	28	15	8	2	6	9
Commitments for trial at assizes and sessions of persons under the age of 16 .. .	959	878	1,007	2,382	2,962	2,720	2,419	2,003	1,713	1,495
Commitments for trial of persons between the ages of 16 and 21 .. .	2,851	2,470	2,824	5,280	6,376	7,969	6,571	5,781	4,405	3,564
Per centage of commitments of persons under 16, to the whole number of commitments	4.93	5.25	5.44	7.63	7.68	6.47	7.72	8.11	9.67	9.87
Per centage of commitments of persons between 16 and 21, to the whole number of commitments	14.66	14.79	15.27	16.91	16.55	18.97	20.97	23.42	24.91	23.53
Summary convictions by Magistrates, as reported by Constabulary, including Vagrants .. .	..	..	..	..	..	101,483	114,639	131,967	136,275	145,236
Outrages reported to the Constabulary office ..	..	..	12,382	20,986	14,080	14,908	10,639	9,144	7,824	5,452
Total number of persons confined in gaols, including debtors .. .	49,537	46,099	47,311	75,685	97,959	112,478	115,871	113,554	92,638	83,805
Daily Average .. .	4,642	4,320	4,611	8,900	10,968	12,648	11,496	10,746	8,578	6,841
Number in prison at the end of each year ..	4,730	4,151	6,118	11,021	12,190	11,402	10,419	8,813	7,810	5,794
Number of deaths in prisons .. .	..	81	131	1,315	1,190	1,306	578	494	213	157
Proportion of deaths to prisoners .. .	..	1 in 569	1 in 361	1 in 57	1 in 82	1 in 86	1 in 200	1 in 233	1 in 435	1 in 534



APPENDIX G.—SHIPPING.

Number and Tonnage of Vessels that entered and cleared at the Ports of Ireland during the years 1844 to 1848, inclusive.

FOREIGN TRADE.	1844.		1845.		1846.		1847.		1848.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Inwards..... British.....	386	49,364	293	37,651	595	82,978	1,610	272,333	879	145,598
"..... Foreign.....	142	18,881	180	26,345	378	75,266	1,145	238,361	601	109,857
Outwards..... British.....	166	43,037	155	37,689	284	61,963	1,038	183,318	455	129,972
"..... Foreign.....	72	9,876	147	22,775	264	51,660	857	188,141	431	76,993
COLONIAL TRADE.										
Inwards..... British.....	541	138,918	763	210,136	645	183,665	499	120,734	463	138,596
"..... Foreign.....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Outwards..... British.....	456	115,802	538	149,095	651	180,968	647	176,955	362	101,868
"..... Foreign.....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
COASTING TRADE.										
<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>										
Inwards.....	17,115	1,224,543	17,839	1,270,567	19,141	1,452,734	16,901	1,235,417	17,933	1,379,839
Outwards.....	10,363	687,702	10,564	684,611	8,364	563,605	7,921	516,805	8,649	645,922
<i>Steamers.</i>										
Inwards.....	3,115	783,961	3,653	923,021	3,671	995,173	3,350	949,985	3,309	961,193
Outwards.....	3,321	830,812	3,797	956,121	3,888	1,053,462	3,436	971,821	3,419	998,609
	35,677	3,902,896	37,929	4,318,011	37,881	4,701,474	37,404	4,853,870	36,501	4,686,447

APPENDIX G, *continued*.—S H I P P I N G .

*Number and Tonnage of Vessels that entered and cleared at the Ports of Ireland during the years 1849 to 1853, inclusive.*

	1849.		1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>										
Inwards..... British.....	1,311	221,682	1,016	155,000	1,238	197,043	1,070	192,699	850	144,536
„ ..... Foreign.....	769	146,427	871	160,288	1,204	250,982	804	172,991	1,135	218,155
Outwards..... British.....	568	144,907	433	96,497	514	121,899	402	95,007	319	74,251
„ ..... Foreign.....	649	119,267	704	130,588	918	203,586	620	139,464	945	201,628
<b>COLONIAL TRADE.</b>										
Inwards..... British.....	366	96,025	318	90,012	365	108,970	328	94,615	309	90,356
„ ..... Foreign.....	..	..	15	6,129	26	9,152	24	8,238	60	19,344
Outwards..... British.....	348	94,714	248	68,626	229	91,083	248	73,948	220	69,953
„ ..... Foreign.....	21	5,095	57	16,082	107	30,145	57	15,908	69	17,477
<b>COASTING TRADE.</b>										
<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>										
Inwards.....	16,548	1,179,929	16,403	1,191,243	17,931	1,352,303	16,321	1,164,709	18,101	1,417,465
Outwards.....	7,572	495,350	7,360	438,532	7,955	510,821	7,501	503,894	8,670	648,195
<i>Steamers.</i>										
Inwards.....	3,484	1,082,604	4,340	1,303,489	4,254	1,217,809	4,779	1,416,082	4,860	1,484,827
Outwards.....	3,798	1,147,743	4,534	1,338,732	4,374	1,328,001	4,624	1,409,950	4,692	1,459,410
	35,434	4,733,743	36,299	4,995,218	39,115	5,430,794	36,778	5,287,505	40,130	5,845,597

APPENDIX G., concluded.—SHIPPING.

*Vessels Registered at Irish Ports as belonging to Irish Proprietors, for the years 1844 to 1853, inclusive.*

	1844.		1845.		1846.		1847.		1848.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>										
Under 50 tons .....	941	26,467	1,004	28,312	1,067	30,397	1,075	30,717	1,083	32,492
Above 50 tons .....	1,011	164,627	1,056	178,518	1,087	194,926	1,140	211,072	1,158	212,569
<i>Steamers.</i>										
Under 50 tons .....	7	267	8	309	10	382	12	417	13	442
Above 50 tons .....	74	17,252	71	17,760	87	21,991	92	23,550	93	24,239
	2,033	208,613	2,139	224,899	2,251	247,696	2,319	265,556	2,347	269,742
	1849.		1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>										
Under 50 tons .....	1,080	32,001	1,037	29,570	991	28,295	1,003	28,614	1,037	29,721
Above 50 tons .....	1,142	209,312	1,098	204,183	1,097	205,559	1,075	198,771	1,061	199,419
<i>Steamers.</i>										
Under 50 tons .....	13	442	12	398	13	426	12	370	17	554
Above 50 tons .....	98	25,927	102	27,281	102	28,131	98	27,242	104	29,670
	2,333	267,682	2,249	261,432	2,203	262,411	2,168	254,997	2,219	259,364