

THE
SOUTH OF IRELAND ARCHITECTS
IN COUNCIL.

WE are glad to chronicle in this issue a healthy sign of the times in professional architectural circles, in the establishment of an Architectural Association for Cork and the South of Ireland. What will the members of the dominant Royal Institute of Ireland (in Dublin) say to this revival? There is no use in mincing matters any longer: this action of the Cork architects gives rise to reflections on our Dublin practitioners, which we prefer to allow others to utter, having ourselves again and again, made appeals to the profession in Dublin to afford the public an evidence of their real existence and activity. Are our Dublin architects content to play second fiddle? If not, they must bestir themselves, as Cork will take the lead, and deserve to lead, if there should be further inaction in the capital of the country. Belfast, which some years ago made a creditable effort to establish a representative society, but for reasons which need not be referred to again allowed its organisation to drop asunder, will assuredly now renew its efforts. Whatever Belfast essays in earnest, she generally accomplishes; and we have little doubt that before the new year advances many weeks, the Belfast architects, old and young, will unite again for the representation and protection of their interests.

There is ample room in the four provinces, Leinster, Munster, Ulster, and Connaught, for separate organisations, yet all affiliated in spirit and corresponding as circumstances may warrant for the upholding of their order and the vindication of their claims. The proposed Science and Art Museum scheme, we think, has afforded a lesson to our Irish architects, and the Dublin profession in particular, of the want of organisation and unity where their interests are concerned.

Another year will soon commence, and a good opportunity can be availed of by the nominal Institute in Dublin, for a reorganisation and the election of new members, who will do work worthy of the profession. Members who are likely to be only mere visiting members, or ones lending their names, instead of taking an active interest in the business of the Institute, are of little use, and their presence is better dispensed with. Whatever the payments may be, they should be punctually made, and no member in arrear beyond a certain stated time should be allowed to vote on any important question. Would that we had a few of the architects in our midst that formed the original Institute, in the days when Sir Richard Morrison acted as president and who reflected credit on our country and their profession. We have of course good architects still in Dublin, but union and brotherhood are the wants of the hour.

[Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. XXIV, 1882, p.316]