

THE following are portions of the report of meeting held on 1st ult., in furtherance of above object, and which were crushed out of our last issue :—Sir George Colthurst said that he would have hardly ventured before them if he thought he was expected to appear once more in the character of collector general, whose visits were as welcome as those of the travelling dentist, with his "universal extractor." He felt that a kind of reproach was conveyed to him—probably unintentionally—in the speech of Mr. Scott, who said that the collections for the recent Cork Exhibition had in a measure prevented the possibility of collecting funds for the present project. He did not think, however, that even that reproach would have moved him to take upon himself the unpleasant task of again collecting money, if it were not for some practical experience he had had of the benefits conferred on the artisans of Cork by that institution, even as it at present existed. When in London, some time ago, he saw a peculiar kind of wall decoration, which he wished to have for his residence. Mr. Maple, the head of one of the largest houses in the furniture trade in London, said they would send over a man to do the work. He (Sir George) said that he thought he could get a man in Cork to do it, and Mr. Maple's reply was, "I don't believe you will be able to get a man to do it, not alone in Cork, but in Ireland!" On returning to Cork he prosecuted his inquiries on the subject, and, learning from Mr. Brennan that there was a gentleman engaged in work of that kind, who had been a pupil in the School of Art, he went to him about the matter. The result was that this gentleman did the work altogether to his satisfaction—just as well as Maple's people would have done it, and a good deal cheaper. And when he was talking to the artisans engaged at the work, they told him it was their habit to attend the night school in that institution. They had to work at their trade during the day, but at night attended the lectures given by Mr. Brennan; and from the knowledge of freehand drawing, and the properties and combination of colours they thus acquired, they were enabled to improve their positions considerably. Now, if they had been able to do that in the institution in its crippled state, which had been so amusingly described by, Mr. Denny Lane, what would the pupils not be able to do when they had new and improved buildings and better appliances; would not they be at least well able to hold their own against the pupils in decorative art at the other side of the channel? They were all aware that an Irishman was as well, able to hold his own as any other man in these matters, provided he got the same chance; but hitherto they had not got the same chance. Artisans in England had far greater facilities for scientific and artistic training than the same class in any part of Ireland. Take for instance the great firm of Messrs. Doulton in London; everyone of their employes had a splendid art school which was regularly attended, and there they got a chance of studying the principles of colour and the science of drawing. Give Irish artisans such a chance as that, and then, and then only, would they be able, to hold their own in competition with the artisans of other countries. He was under the impression that hitherto the principal objects of art teaching were to a great extent misunderstood. It was often supposed by some persons that schools of art were merely for students who came there to amuse themselves, and to become proficient in drawing and painting. That, of course, was a very considerable matter, but the real object of a school of art was to give every artisan—he might be a carriage-builder, a painter, or a cabinet-maker—an opportunity of learning how to apply the principles of art, and a knowledge of colours to the work on which he was engaged. He believed that no one ever appealed to the people of Cork in vain for help, when the object on behalf of which the appeal was made was worthy of their subscriptions. That was the case, he thought; with regard to that institution. He could not go into its actual financial condition, but might generally say that all the buildings up to the present had been paid for by the munificent liberality

of one gentleman. He thought they might well ask the citizens of Cork to recognise this munificence, and subscribe to aid this institution in a manner worthy of such munificence. They knew very well how hard it was very often to find money for subscriptions, and how often people must have looked on him (Sir George) as an importunate beggar, but he believed, after all, that when they considered the important work which that institution was intended for, all of them who believed that the development of home manufacture was a matter of vital importance to the prosperity of the country, would contribute heartily and generously, be the amount much or little—each according to his means—in support of an institution, in aid of which that meeting had been convened.

Mr. Mullins, as a past student of the Cork School of Art, attributed all his success to what he had been taught in the school. He considered that technical education was one of 'the great wants that at present existed in Cork.

Dr. Colthurst said the Corporation had acted in a very praiseworthy manner in striking a rate in aid of this institution, and, though they were heavily rated at present, he did not believe there was a citizen of Cork who would object to striking an increased rate in aid of those schools, should it be necessary. On the contrary, he could not conceive how a wiser or better application of corporate funds could be devised. He suggested that a committee should be appointed to make a house-to-house collection, and that a subscription list be now opened.

A subscription list was opened, and subscriptions to a large amount were promised. These, in addition to what had already been promised, would amount altogether to nearly £900.

Sir George Colthurst having been moved to the second chair,

The Rev. Father Hayde proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor. In the course of a few appropriate remarks Father Hayde observed that the public outside did not really know the great amount of good work that was being done in that institution, and if the artisans of the city, and the citizens generally, knew what was being done there, he was sure they would subscribe generously towards the institution.

The Mayor briefly acknowledged the vote of thanks, and said that whatever he could do in the future, either officially or individually, to forward this undertaking, would be cheerfully done by him.

A committee was then appointed to receive subscriptions, and the proceedings terminated.

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