

the acquisition of many new ones, especially of late, in London, and other parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, as well as in Liverpool, may be taken as indications that the Council have retained the public confidence; and the accounts show the Association's own financial affairs, though not in a very flourishing condition, are so far satisfactory, that it is out of debt, and has a small balance in its favour. With additional means, its efficiency might be very greatly increased, by the employment of able lecturers, the gratuitous distribution of short tracts and broad leaves, and the establishment of a systematic course of agitation, such as led to the triumph of the Anti-Corn-Law League. The legacy of £1,000 bequeathed to the Association by one of its earliest and most zealous members—the late John Collett, Esq., formerly M.P. for Athlone—may serve as a nucleus for more extended operations; but on this it would be scarcely prudent to calculate until the money is actually in hand. In the meanwhile, the strength of the Association will be best promoted by increased exertions on the part of existing members, and the enrolment of fresh recruits.

In the growth of the principles founding the groundwork of this Association, in the establishment of other Associations, having, more or less, kindred objects in view, in the widely spread conviction that something must be done to reform effectually the abuses which prevail in every department of the state—in the very disasters which have proclaimed the defects of our system of administration to the whole civilised world; and in the palliatives which those disasters have forced upon unwilling functionaries of the Government, the Council see every motive for perseverance—none for despair. The only ground for apprehension lies in the possibility that the public generally, roused by events into temporary activity, may again sink into a state of apathetic indifference to matters vitally affecting their own interests and the welfare of the nation. In such possibility lies the necessity for increased exertions on the part of such Associations as this. Perseverance, therefore, is what the Council recommend to the Association, and concluding their report with this recommendation, they indulge the hope that their successors will, with equal zeal and greater ability, labour to bring to a successful issue its combined objects—*Financial Reform, Direct Taxation, and perfect Freedom of Trade.*

---