

out the kingdom ; that the modest trade account of two hundred and twenty pounds annually would have grown to more than twenty millions, and the modest saving of forty-eight pounds a year to the poor would have swollen to a profit of nearly two millions ; and, lastly of all, that one of his successors would be invited to preside at an annual Congress—the twelfth in number—held in the most populous city of his diocese, and attended by representatives from all parts of the kingdom, for the sole purpose of discussing the successes, the failures, the capabilities, the obstacles, the past achievements, and the future hopes, of co-operation.

After my opening confession, you will not expect me to attempt any minute discussion of the economics of co-operation. I must leave such matters to those who possess a more intimate practical knowledge. But in any department of life it is useful at times to submit questions to an unprofessional eye. A person standing outside an important movement may sometimes see its general bearings more clearly from the very fact that he is without its range. It is this feeling, I suppose, which leads you from time to time to invite unprofessional persons like myself to express their opinions on your movement. You believe that you are in possession of a great idea which may be worked so as to promote the best interests of the community. Having faith in this idea, you are necessarily propagandists. You court publicity for your doctrine : you invite the criticism of all comers, nothing doubting that inquiry must lead to conviction. The more light, the more life, where the germ of life is present. Publicity may not have been the leading motive of those who instituted these congresses. Probably they thought solely or thought chiefly of the advantages arising from the interchange of ideas and experiences among those connected with the work. But publicity, though a subordinate aim, is a primary result. And so it is not unfit that from time to time some representative of the outside public, like myself, should take his turn with the leaders of co-operation.