

Gospel for the day, to have been any particular sect among the Jews: the term may only denote those who openly supported the government of Herod, either as the representative of the Roman power, or which is more probable, in his own right; for although he was an Idumean, he endeavored to conceal that fact as much as possible.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The evils of society and the remedy or remedies for them are approached in a great variety of ways, and with a large number of different specifics. A vast quantity of clever talking is often expended upon the subject, and if that would either probe the evils or cure them, the thing would, most assuredly, soon be done. The Church Congress in Plymouth was still discussing the different phases of unbelief, the effect of its principles on society, and the paramount importance of education, temperance, home mission work, and similar questions when the Social Science Congress assembled in Liverpool, in order to discuss educational and sanitary matters, from a somewhat lower stand-point.

It is twenty years since the first of these Congresses was held under the presidency of the late Lord Brougham; and the object then made most prominent is that still professedly sought. This object is to ameliorate and improve the social condition of the community by the advancement of education, the diminution of crime, the reform of jurisprudence, the better regulation of trade, and the enforcement of wiser sanitary laws. In keeping with these objects the papers read and the discussions which followed chiefly related to questions which bear upon the health, the education, the morality, and the comfort of the people—subjects these, which although not calculated to create a large amount of excitement or enthusiasm, yet such as are eminently calculated to produce considerable benefit to mankind. And doubtless if the practical suggestions which are made were also carried out, an improved condition of things would be witnessed in the world generally. It is not every paper that is read or every subject introduced, which can secure the charm of originality or novelty. Yet it would appear that at the last Congress especially there was a practical common sense air about the whole proceedings, and a subdued earnestness of spirit which is vastly more important than any speculative theories however brilliant, or any exciting debates, however skilfully conducted. The Marquis of Huntly in his opening address descanted upon the subject of education, in which he urged the importance of a better classification of scholars, insisted on a better provision for both elementary and higher class schools, and for a more efficient training of the teachers themselves. Dr. Pattison of Oxford brought up the same subject again in a comprehensive paper, in which he reviewed the state of education. Another paper was introduced as

the best mode of training teachers. This appears to have been one of the most valuable papers read. Many excellent ideas were expressed in each discussion, and the practical result gained appears to indicate that although much has been done to improve the education of the people, yet there is abundant need of greater effort and that of a more systematic kind.

One of the subjects introduced this year was the department of Art, an address being delivered by Mr. Poynter, R.A., taking for his motto:—"The very essence of good art is to be found in honest and good workmanship." He remarked that the British workman never had a high sense of art, but once excelled in workmanship; and he is fast losing one faculty without gaining the other, and without the prospect of improving in it. Machinery has superseded manual dexterity, and destroys the school in which the ingenious workman might become imbued with many of the principles of art. But the workman must make something for which there is a demand; and therefore the diffusion of a better standard of taste in connection with the ordinary requirements of life would tend to the improvement of art by giving it a commercial value. In England especially, much training and education are required for this purpose; while in France and Germany, the art of design seems to be very extensively in-born, just as the appreciation of beautiful coloring is in Spain and Italy.

Increasing population received attention from Mr. Hawksley's address in connection with the department of public health. He discussed the dangers arising from an increasing population depending upon foreign supplies of food. In England one third of the articles of subsistence are imported, and they say they shall soon have to look about for two-thirds of it. In reference to this, we would recommend the bonds between the Colonies and the mother country to be drawn much closer than they are at present, even to the extent of confederation in some shape or other, and then it will be many a year before the population will overtake the supplies which could be furnished by the whole empire. The late Sir William Denison thought the whole earth would be over-peopled in little more than a century, founding his conclusions on arguments similar to those of Malthus and Miss Martineau. The process however allows nothing for social perturbation, and to it may be applied the aphorism that, There are no figures so fallacious as arithmetical figures. Mr. Hawksley contends that sanitary reform has not increased, nor is likely to increase, the extreme duration of life. He thinks the waste of life is to be sought, not in the water pipes and sewers, but chiefly in the homes and habits of the industrial classes.

In addition to the improvement of health and education, a prominent place is due to papers on the repression of crime, on the reform of law, and on the relations of trade. In all these it was attempted to be shown that crime might be repressed, not by severe penal enact-

ments, but by more gentle moral suasion; that temperance would diminish both disease and crime; and that a better understanding between the different classes of society would ensure more permanent harmony and prosperity. The Congress did not propound any new theory, or add much to the information on the old familiar themes. But it enforced afresh these subjects on the public attention. The main civilizing and humanizing influence of all, Christianity, did not come within the range of subjects belonging to the Congress; but the treatment its various sections received, being of a decidedly practical character, will doubtless be productive of considerable benefit.

CARDINAL ANTONELLI.

The Cardinal Giacomo Antonelli, whose death on the 6th inst., we announced last week, was member of an Italian family of the middle class, and was born at Sonnino, April 2, 1806. Having been educated in Rome for the Church, and distinguished himself for his ability, he entered Holy orders; and after holding several posts under Gregory XVI., among which was that of Minister of Finance, he was, June 11, 1847, raised to the dignity of Cardinal Deacon by Pope Pius IX., under the title of St. Agatha. In 1848 he became Prime Minister, in which position he at first won the favor of the popular party. He continued to be the Pope's political adviser; although when the Romans desired to join the King of Sardinia against the Austrians, the Pope hesitated, and Antonelli's ministry resigned, the opponents of innovation compelling him to make way for Mamiani; but after the assassination of Mamiani's successor, Rossi, Antonelli urged Pius to leave Rome and join him at Gaeta in November, 1848, where he conducted the negotiations which resulted in the Pope's return to his capital in April, 1850, under the protection of a French Army of occupation. In that year he drew up and countersigned the famous bull for establishing a Roman Catholic hierarchy in England. From that time till his death he held the uninterrupted confidence of the Pope, and was the moving spirit in every diplomatic or spiritual act of the Papal court. His policy became so retrogressive, that it exasperated the liberals, and even led to remonstrances from foreign powers. He was unusually skilful in the arts of manoeuvring, and in virtue thereof was able to maintain his position in spite of his colleagues, some of whom opposed his absolute policy. His protests however against the progress of events in Italy were without avail, as was his appeal to foreign powers for assistance. An interval of nearly ten years' peace was succeeded in 1859 by the insurrection of the Romagna country. In 1860, he issued warrants of excommunication against all the opposers of the Pope's temporal power. After the evacuation of Rome by the French, he protested against the formal entry into Rome by Victor Emmanuel, but without effect.