

'MR. TUKE'S FUND.'

THE Executive Committee of the above Fund, believing that an account of their action up to this time may be of interest, have requested Mr. Tuke to draw up a statement of his work and experiences during the seven weeks he was engaged in Ireland in selecting emigrants and arranging for their shipment.

To this personal narrative it has been thought well to add, by way of preface, a few lines with reference to the inauguration of the Fund, and the subsequent proceedings of the Executive Committee.

About the middle of March last, two or three gentlemen, impressed by statements received from the West of Ireland, strongly urging the immediate need for emigration from the counties of Mayo and Galway, requested a number of Members of Parliament and others, who, it was thought, would take an interest in the question, to attend a private meeting, which, at the invitation of the Duke of Bedford, was held at 81 Eaton Square, on March 31st.

At that meeting Mr. Tuke gave a short account of a recent visit to the West of Ireland (described in his article in the *Contemporary Review* for April), detailing the condition of the Western Unions, the evictions, and the urgent need for emigration. A letter from Mr. Forster was also read, in which he expressed great sympathy with the objects of the meeting, believing that there could hardly be any possible movement which would do more good, and prevent more misery, than the endeavour to assist Irish emigration; there being many districts in the West of Ireland in which the small cottier farmers are so crowded together that it is impossible for them to get from the produce of the soil, under any Land Law, so much as would secure them from constantly recurring periods of either starvation or pauperism. Mr. Forster added a request that his name might be put down as a subscriber to the amount of £250, to be increased to £500 if needful.

After further conversation and consideration, certain resolutions were adopted, and the outcome of the meeting was the appointment