

lead in founding an association for affording to those engaged in the various efforts now happily begun for the improvement of the people by an opportunity of studying social economics as a great whole." On its first assembling at Birmingham, October 12, 1857, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Sydney Turner, Inspector of Reformatories, and the inaugural address was made by Lord Brougham, first President of the association. Both the sermon and the address took the highest ground as to the necessity for such investigations as were aimed at. Five departments of inquiry were singled out, those which especially form the practical portions of social science.

1. Jurisprudence and Amendment of the law.
2. Education.
3. Punishment and Reformation.
4. Public Health.
5. Social Economy.

From year to year that association has met, until now its published volumes of "Transactions" form, in themselves, a very considerable literature on the subject. The same may be said of a similar association in this country. It has enlisted the efforts of many of our ablest and most philanthropic citizens. Its journal has furnished timely and thorough contributions to the deeply-needed knowledge of the subject taken up. It will not be difficult to give reasons why the Christian ministry should study this great subject, and, so far as possible, themselves take a hand in advancing sociology by contributions to it. For the humblest parish will give opportunity for investigations which may throw light on some of the numerous problems involved. First, then, it should be considered that the study of social science reveals the extent of social evils, and the imperative need for many social reforms. Not until some thorough means has been devised for investigation could this disclosure have been secured. A vague sense that things were wrong in the on-going of society, a partial and superficial knowledge of certain evils, these were easily enough comprehended: A desire to remedy abuses, to carry on wise reform, these, too, were at hand. But not until, in the spirit of modern science, a thorough knowledge of all the facts in the case was secured, and an equally thorough consideration of how reforms could be best applied, as well as of what reforms were needed, was had, was there any hope of coping with the problems involved. I quote, to illustrate the point, from the first volume of the "Transactions of the English Social Science Association," the following subjects from the table of contents, showing what came under discussion the first year of its operation: "Adulteration of Food," "Crime and Density of Population," "Restoration of the Criminal," "Early Closing," "Drainage of Towns," "Industrial Employment of Women," "The Application of Eminent Charities," "Short Imprisonment," "Prison Dietary," "Prostitution," Reforma-