

## THE CORK INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

The recent visit of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Earl Spencer, to the Industrial Exhibition at Cork, was an event not merely of local importance, but of good auspices for the welfare of the Irish people. This Exhibition is designed for the whole of Ireland. It was at Cork, in 1852, that the first attempt was made to follow the example of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park the year before and the Dublin Exhibition of 1853, upon a wider scale, assisted by the liberality of Sir William Dargan, was the, second Irish undertaking of this kind. In 1865 another Dublin Exhibition took place, in a new building of a permanent character, which served again in 1872 and 1873 for a similar purpose, but part of which has been removed. At a meeting of the County Cork Agricultural Society, held on Oct. 7 last, the question being raised as to where the next show of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland should be held, Cork initiated steps for having the show in the south. A friendly emulation took place between Limerick and Cork, and the Royal Agricultural Society threw in its vote in favour of Limerick. But a large indemnity fund had been subscribed in Cork, and, on the suggestion of Alderman Nagle, this fund was devoted towards the foundation of the movement for an Industrial Exhibition. At first the time and the condition of the country seemed unfavourable to a display of material wealth; but by degrees the matter was taken up by the Cork Corporation and other public bodies, and then its progress was merely a matter of time. Leading men of all classes and parties, Catholics and Protestants, Conservatives, Liberals, and Nationalists, the landlords and farmers of the county, and the merchants, tradesmen; and artisans of the city of Cork have cordially joined in this undertaking. The president is the Earl of Bandon, Lord Lieutenant of the county; the Mayor of Cork is chairman of the executive committee, and the vice-chairmen are Sir G. Colthurst, Bart., Mr. W. Shaw, M.P., and Mr. T. Mahony; Mr. L. A. Beamish is honorary secretary, and the list of the committee includes a great many influential men. The Exhibition comprises, 1st, articles manufactured in Ireland, and Irish raw produce, mineral, vegetable, and animal; 2nd, articles produced in other countries which may serve to promote Irish

industries; 3rd, machinery suitable for Irish industries; 4th, Irish works of art and decoration; 5th, a general loan collection of art; 6th, agricultural products and machinery; 7th, fishery appliances, but all with a view to the benefit of Ireland. The Exhibition building, on the site of the Corn Exchange and adjacent ground, was designed by the architect, Mr. R. Walker, C.E., and constructed with remarkable despatch, in about two months, by Mr. John Delaney, of Cork, the contractor. We gave a view of the exterior some time ago; an interior sectional view is now presented. The Corn Exchange hall forms an entrance vestibule, whence an arched passage leads into the Great Hall, 188 ft. long and 75 ft. wide, divided into a nave, 50 ft. wide and 56 ft. high, with side aisles and galleries, and with an orchestra at the end. Connected with the Great Hall are thirteen avenues, 25 ft. wide, eight of which are 384 ft. long and five 196 ft. long, separated by pillars, with arches opening into each other, which have a fine aggregate effect. The two art galleries are each 75 ft. long and 25 ft. wide. An additional hall, 250 ft. long and 51 ft. wide, is devoted to the agricultural machinery and implements. The entire floor space, including the galleries of the great hall, is 143,115 square feet, of which 114,743 ft. square is occupied for the exhibition of articles, arranged in eleven sections and thirty-eight classes, according to their kind—namely, raw materials and their immediate products; machines and tools; works in metals; glass and pottery; leather, fur, feathers, bones, horn, and shell; fibres and textile fabrics; furniture and decoration; educational apparatus; miscellaneous wares; fine arts; archaeology and ethnology (loan collections). A model dairy, with cream and butter-making, is fitted up in the yard; there are models of cottages, and special exhibitions of lace and needlework. The whole Exhibition is beautifully lighted, and the electric light is used in the evening. The progress that Ireland has made in the manufacture of various materials of ordinary commerce is abundantly and significantly shown, while the reality of the recent home manufacture movement is strongly attested by the revival of trades that for some years past had been allowed to languish almost to extinction. English and foreign exhibits in the heavier materials are not numerous, but this will be accounted for by the fact that the Exhibition has not aspired to the character of an international

or a universal display. There is, however, a good show of English-made agricultural machines and implements, and of Sheffield cutlery. We earnestly recommend a visit to the Cork Exhibition to those who have leisure just now to visit Ireland, and who will, at the same time, have the moral and social gratification of proving their hearty sympathy with truly patriotic and judicious efforts to do good in the sister country, while they will get much practical acquaintance with its actual resources, and they may see some of the most delightful scenery to be found in the United Kingdom. Let us also hope that these experiences will tend to promote kindly feeling between the English and Irish people.

[Taken from *Illustrated London News*, Vol. LXXXII, 1883, p.236]

