

## THE OLD CORN EXCHANGE, CORK (Now Municipal Buildings), Where the Cork Exhibitions of 1852 and 1883 were held.

## Cork and its Exhibitions in the Past.

THE promotion of trade and manufactures by means of public collections of works of industry and art has no claim to the merit of novelty. This method of developing the resourcefulness and constructive ability of a nation, or community, is now nearly

ability of a latitud, of community is now nearly two centuries in operation, and has exercised an incalculable influence on the rapid development of improvements in the multitudinous accessories of civilized life. It is hardly possible for Ireland to organise an International Exhibition of the dimensions attained by similar projects in Paris, London, or Chicago, but it is possible to open an International Exhibition in this country which may be of service to those outside exhibitors who justify its title, and cannot fail to be of great educational value to every reflective Irish man and woman who visits it. It is a good augury of the success of the present Exhibition that it is being held in Cork, because the two previous Exhibitions held in the Southern capital cannot be described as otherwise than eminently successful. Although they were merely unpretentious national displays, the tangible results were more satisfying than attended similar Exhibitions in Dublin.

The first National Exhibition held in Cork owed its origin to a respected citizen, Mr. Daniel Corbett, who, in November, 1851, interested a few of his personal friends in the project, which was carried to a successful issue in the following year. The original idea was to confine the Exhibition to the province of Munster, but, in consequence of the encouragement which the committee received from the other provinces, and the express wishes of a large number of the local manufacturers, the exhibition was opened to exhibitors from all parts of Freland. Anyone who reads the late regretted John Francis Maguire's "Industrial Movement in Ireland, as illustrated by the National Exhibition of 185,3;" will be

amazed to find the prejudice which seems to the prove diamst purchasing articles of Irish manufacture, and the readiness with which articles of genuine Irish make, but sold under a foreign guise, were approved and purchased. Biscuit making and confectionery were new Irish industries at the Cork Exhibition of 1852. In the hands of three Irish firms, at least, these industries have made wonderful strides during the latter half of the top the value (gloves were shown, but we have recently read that they are no longer manufactured. On the whole, a review of the contents of Mr. Maguire's book conveys the impression that if Ireland has lost some minor industries and developed new news

Const. wrote a most valuable report, extending to 271 pp., On the vote a most valuable report, extending to 271 pp., on the National Exhibition of 1853. Mr. Maguires review of the Exhibition of 1852 was such as might be expected from a gifted journalist favourably disposed towards the subject in hand. Dr. Sullivan's report upon the later exhibition is an accomplished, honesily critical review of Irish industry in 1832. It is encouraging, therefore, to find the late President of the Queen's College recording the following opinion :--<sup>10</sup> The representation of Irish industry at the Cork Exhibition, taken as a whole, was notable not only as being the largest and most complete ever made, but also because it showed marks of real healthy growth and great future promise. The transition from the small and mere domestic phase of many of the trades to the manufacturing one being well marked." We have confidence in expressing our belief that the present Exhibition will show a very marked improvement upon all previous displays of Irish industrial developmet.

## The Cork International Exhibition, 1902.

To Cork will belong the distinction of organising and carrying to a successful issue the first Exhibition, national or international, held in Ireland in the twentieth century. We have said national or international because, though cosmopolitan in the conception of its originator, the Right Hon. Edward

Fitzgerald, the original design has developed in such a happy fashion that it will be found more racy of the soil than any ostensibly "national" Exhibition of earlier date, and as representatively international as at least one of its predecessors in Ireland. This desirable combination renders

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