

The COMMITTEE, appointed to consider the Legislative Provisions already existing for Support of the Aged and Infirm POOR of IRELAND, and for the Punishment of Vagrants, and of the Necessity of revising and amending the Statutes relating thereto, and also of making Provision for the Care of LUNATICS and IDIOTS by Grand Jury Presentments; and to report the same, with their Observations and Opinion thereupon, to the House;—

HAVE, pursuant to the Order of the House, examined the Matters to them referred; And,

HAVING perused and considered the several Statutes, and examined into such other Evidence relating thereto as was at the present Period laid before them, Have come to the following Resolutions:

Resolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the Adoption of a general System of Provision for the Poor of *Ireland*, by way of Parish Rate, as in *England*, or in any similar Manner, would be highly injurious to the Country, and would not produce any real or permanent Advantage, even to the lower Classes of People who must be the Objects of such Support.

Resolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the several Acts passed in the Parliament of *Ireland*, and particularly that of the 11th and 12th of His present Majesty, directing the Establishment of a House of Industry in every County, County of a City,

a City, and County of a Town, have not been complied with, nor any Presentment made by the several Grand Juries to assist in the Support of such Establishments for the Relief of Aged and Infirm Poor, and the Punishment of Vagrants and Sturdy Beggars, except in the Counties of *Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and Clare*, and in the Cities of *Cork, Waterford, and Limerick*; but that the House of Industry of *Dublin* is supported at the Public Charge, and is open to the Admission of the Poor of the several Parts of *Ireland*, which may have induced the Counties and Cities that have not carried into Effect the Establishment of separate Houses of Industry to consider the House of Industry of *Dublin* so regulated and provided for as a sufficient Contribution on their Part, and precluding the Necessity of their making farther Provision for their Poor.

Resolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the Act of the 5th of His present Majesty, and other Acts directing the Establishment of Infirmaries, or County Hospitals, and granting a certain Allowance from the Treasury by way of Salary to the Surgeon or Physician attending thereon, have been carried into Effect in almost all the Counties of *Ireland*.

Resolved,

THAT, so far as at present appears to this Committee, The Provisions of the Act of the 27th of His present Majesty, Cap. 39, empowering Grand Juries to present the Sums necessary for Support of a Ward for Idiots and Insane Persons, have not been complied with.

Resolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That in the House of Industry of *Dublin* Provision is made for the Support of upwards of One Hundred and Eighteen Idiots and Lunatics; in the House of Industry of *Cork* for Ninety; in that of *Waterford* for Twenty-five; and in that of *Limerick* for Paupers so afflicted.

Resolved,

THAT it appears to this Committee, That the Demand for Admission of Lunatics and Idiots into all these Places, greatly

greatly exceeds the Accommodation or Funds appointed for their Support; and that it does not appear that any Institution, maintained in any degree at the Public Expence, exists in any other Parts of *Ireland* for their Reception.

Resolved,

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Attention and Care necessary to the effectual Relief of these distressed Objects cannot be efficaciously extended to them whilst they are connected with Institutions of a very different Nature, and at the same Time must in a great degree break in upon and derange the orderly Regulation of those Institutions.

Resolved,

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Establishment of Four Asylums for Idiots and Lunatics, One in each of the Provinces of *Ireland*, (including that of *Dublin*) placed in as central a Situation as possible, to be erected and maintained in such Manner as may hereafter be deemed advisable, either by Grand Jury Presentments, or otherwise, would be a Measure highly beneficial.

Resolved,

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Consideration of the important Objects referred to their Examination requires more mature Discussion than the present advanced Period of the Session of Parliament would allow, and further Information than they can at present attain, to enable them to form a correct Judgment thereon; and that they do therefore recommend to the House, That the further Investigation of this Subject be resumed at an early Period of the ensuing Session, as an Object having strong Claims on the Attention of the Legislature.

REPORT
FROM
Committee respecting the
Poor of Ireland.

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