

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

Promotion of Social Science.

ADDRESS

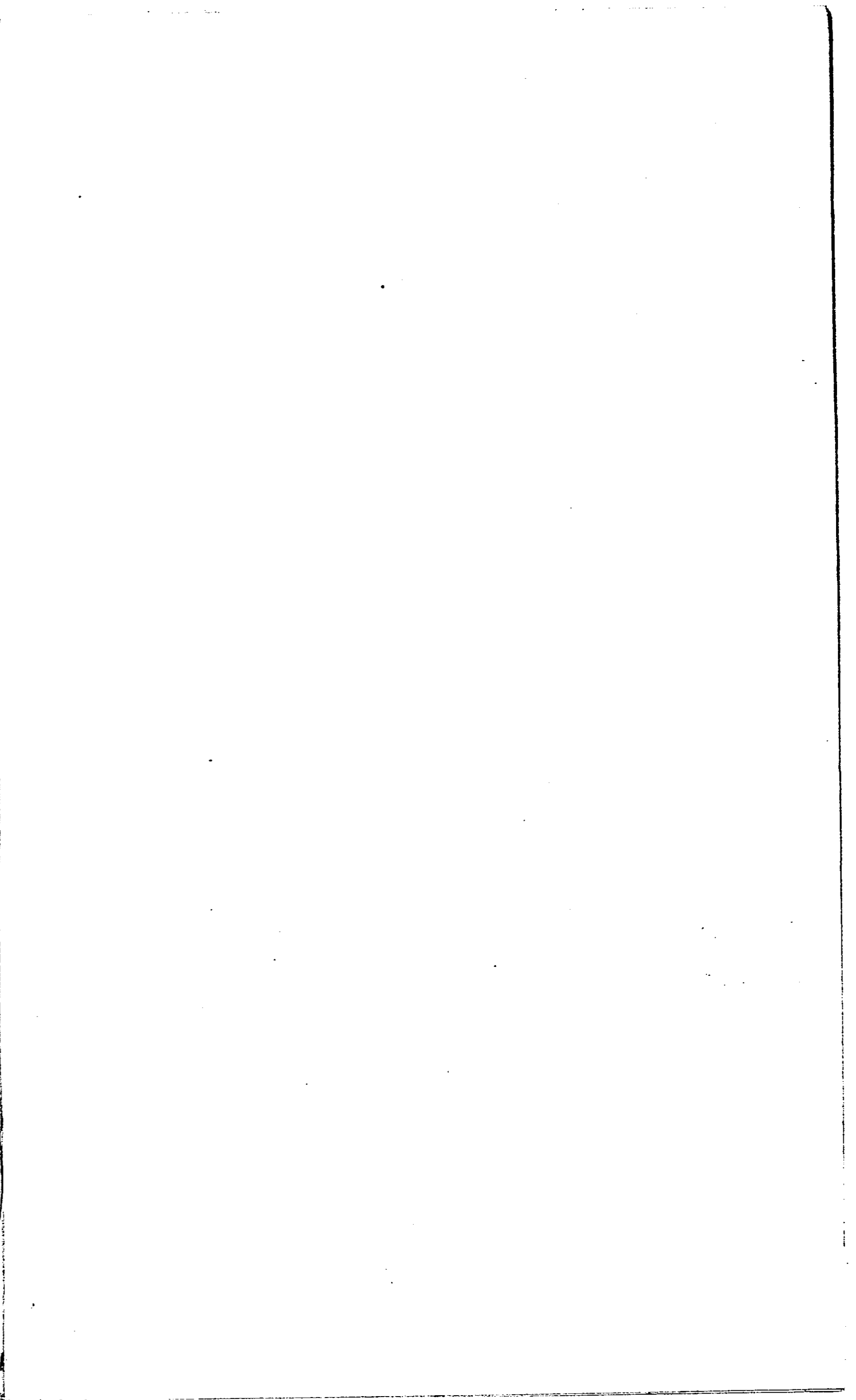
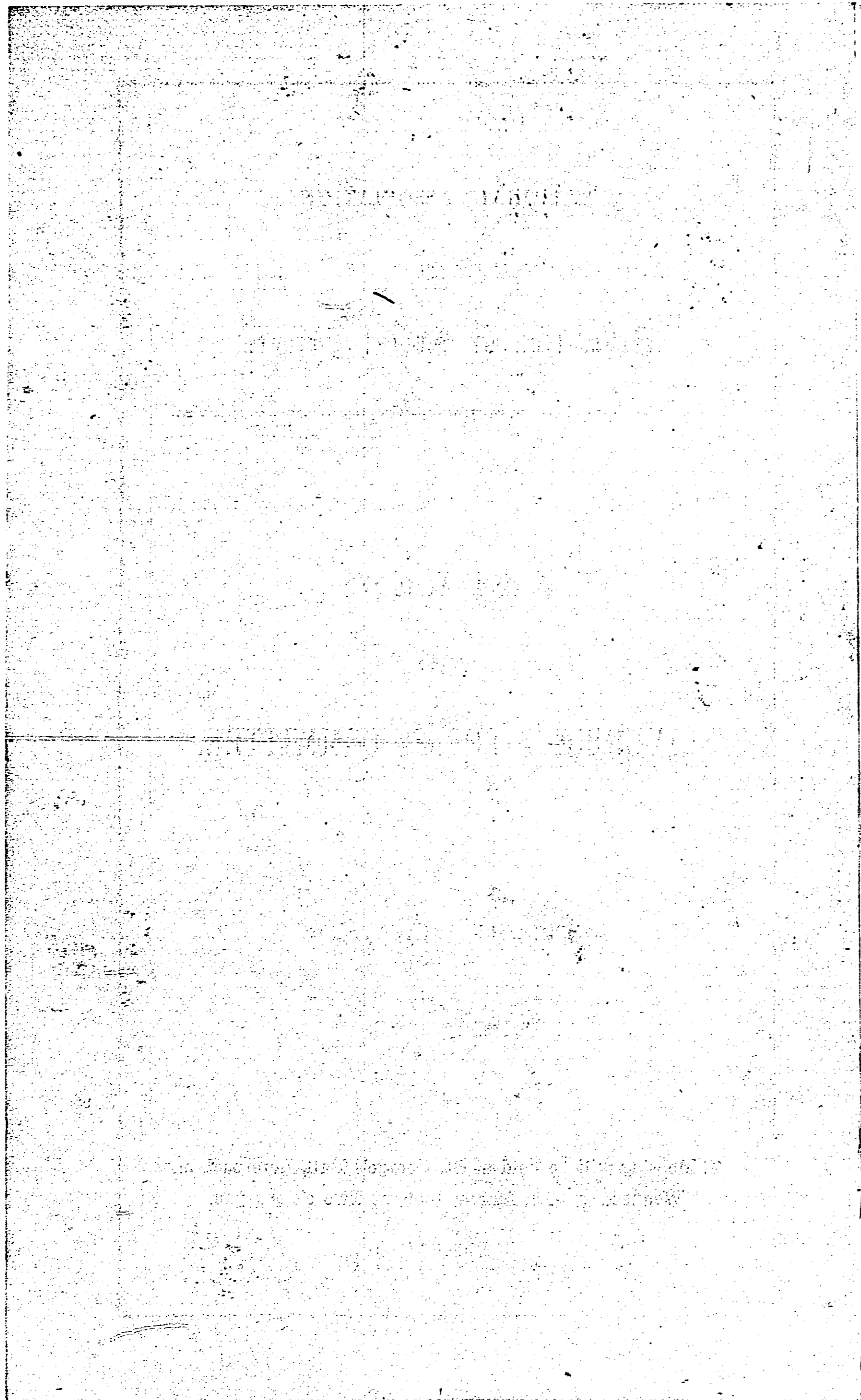
OF THE

LIVERPOOL LOCAL COMMITTEE.

FEBRUARY, 1859.

A Meeting will be held at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on
Wednesday, 30th March, 1859, at Two o'clock p.m.

LIVERPOOL:
PRINTED BY ROCKLIFF & SON, CASTLE STREET.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

In consequence of the Assizes, the MEETING at
St. George's Hall, herein announced, is POSTPONED to
WEDNESDAY, the 20th of April, 1859, at Two o'clock.

FEBRUARY, 1859.

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FEBRUARY, 1859.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
 FOR THE
 PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

THE
 SECOND ANNUAL MEETING,
 HELD
 OCTOBER, 1858, AT LIVERPOOL.

President:

The Right Honorable LORD JOHN RUSSELL, M.P.

Vice-Presidents:

The MAYOR OF LIVERPOOL.

The RECORDER OF LIVERPOOL.

Secretaries:

General—G. W. HASTINGS, Esq.

Foreign—H. G. BOHN, Esq.

Local— { REV. T. CARTER,
 J. T. DANSON, Esq.
 GEORGE MELLY, Esq.

Treasurers:

W. S. COOKSON, Esq.

ARCHIBALD BRIGGS, Esq.

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DEPARTMENTS:

JURISPRUDENCE AND AMENDMENT OF THE LAW.

President:—The Right Hon. JOSEPH NAPIER,
Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

Secretaries: { A. EDGAR, Esq.
A. T. SQUAREY, Esq.
EDWARD BANNER, Esq.

EDUCATION:

President:—The Right Hon. W. F. COWPER, M.P.

Secretaries: { Rev. D. MELVILLE, M.A.
Rev. NASH STEPHENSON, M.A.
Rev. J. S. HOWSON, M.A.

PUNISHMENT AND REFORMATION:

President:—The Right Hon. The EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G.

Secretaries: { MARTIN WARE, JUN. Esq.
Rev. T. CARTER, M.A.
JOSEPH HUBBACK, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

President:—The Right Hon. The EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

Secretaries: { PHILIP H. HOLLAND, Esq.
DR. VOSE.
ALFRED HIGGINSON, Esq.

SOCIAL ECONOMY:

President:—The Right Hon. SIR JAMES STEPHEN, K.C.B.

Secretaries: { JOSEPH TOYNBEE, Esq. F.R.S.
CHARLES HAWKINS, Esq.
PHILIP H. RATHBONE, Esq.
Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL.

The GENERAL MEETING of 1859 will be held at
Bradford.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

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LIVERPOOL LOCAL COMMITTEE.

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL, held at St. George's Hall, on the day the Liverpool Meeting of the Association closed (October, 1858), it was resolved—

“That it be recommended to the Association to appoint the local Officers of the Association at Liverpool (with power to add to their number), to constitute a local Standing Committee of the Association, in Liverpool, having for its object the collection and digestion of information as to the condition of, and means of promoting Social Science in the district; and that the Committee be requested to report to the Association at its next Meeting.”

The above resolution, being embodied in the report made by the Council, on the same day, to the

Association at large, was confirmed; and the Committee was formed accordingly, as follows:—

JOSEPH HUBBACK, CHAIRMAN.

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| A. T. SQUAREY, E. BANNER, J. T. DANSON. | } JURISPRUDENCE AND AMENDMENT OF THE LAW. |
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| REV. J. S. HOWSON, GEORGE MELLY, A. BRIGGS. | } EDUCATION. |
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| REV. T. CARTER, JOSEPH HUBBACK, J. B. ASPINALL. | } PUNISHMENT AND REFOR- MATION. |
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| DR. DUNCAN, DR. VOSE, A. HIGGINSON. | } PUBLIC HEALTH. |
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| REV. S. A. STEINTHAL, PHILIP H. RATHBONE, DR. GEE. | } SOCIAL ECONOMY. |
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J. T. DANSON, SECRETARY.

Having made the necessary preliminary arrangements, and having received from the Council a grant of funds sufficient to meet its expenses during the current year, this Committee now addresses itself to all who may be disposed to co-operate in the labors it has been charged with.

The purposes of the Committee are indicated in the terms of its appointment. They may be described as those of the Association at large, with the exception that they are confined to Liverpool and the surrounding district.

In order to effect these purposes the Committee propose—

1. To collect information as to existing (local) social evils and their fit remedies, and the available means and best methods of applying such remedies.
2. To afford a centre of communication to which such information may be imparted, and from which it may be drawn.
3. To provide a medium through which means of Social reform, suggested by the experience of other localities, may be published and made available in this; and
4. To afford, annually, an opportunity of considering, as far as may be in the presence of the parties immediately concerned, such portions of the information thus obtained as it may be expedient to impart to the Association at large, at its next annual gathering.

It appears to the Committee that such a local centre of information and of action is not only justified, but is even rendered necessary to the efficient promotion of the Social Science in this district, by the following considerations—to which they invite your earnest attention:—

I. *By the social peculiarities of the locality*: these rendering the facts proving the existence, and the character and causes of, as well as indicating the remedies for, our social evils, also more or less peculiar; and thence the evils themselves less likely to be duly regarded, and the proposed remedies less

likely to be efficient, if considered only together with, or without distinction from, those of other districts.

II. By the obvious need for some local means, constantly available, of *maintaining communication* between institutions and individuals, desirous and capable of promoting social progress in this locality and the Council of the Association; and also with such other and similar local Committees as may, in future years, be formed for like purposes in other towns visited by the Association.

In the course of action thus defined the Committee now earnestly desire the aid of every person in the district desirous of promoting social progress; and they gladly offer in return all such assistance as it may be in their power to render.

Convenient allotment of the labor of individuals disposed to work on different parts of this great national subject has already been materially facilitated by its division into five distinct but connected departments of enquiry and discussion.

It will be observed, however, that in all these departments the ultimate purpose is the same: in each are sought efficient remedies for existing social evils. In each, also, the primary means will, as the Committee conceive, be found the same: the first requisite being, in all cases, a full and accurate description of the evils to be remedied, and of their causes, so far as these may be apparent, or susceptible of detection by inference.

Distress being displayed, the Committee see no

lack of willingness to relieve its symptoms; but they observe much inaptitude to develop its causes by precise and effectual enquiry. Nor, though much to be regretted, is this, in any degree, surprising. With wounds, social as well as physical, it is commonly much more agreeable, to both parties, for the time, to apply a plaister than a probe—to cover than to cure: or, in the instances referred to, to avoid than to incur the labour of extending the limits of sound Social Science. To this defective mode of action, the Committee now earnestly desire to draw the attention of all benevolently disposed persons. They see a very large proportion of the active philanthropy of the district wholly or partially failing in effect only from imperfect knowledge, or partial consideration, of the facts dealt with. And further, while in no degree undervaluing the time, the labour, and the patience demanded for such a course, they are persuaded that a complete knowledge and a just appreciation of the facts under consideration, will, in most instances, be best attained by carefully collecting and recording them in the form of statistical or numerical data. Not that, in this particular form, the data obtained will necessarily be more worthy of trust; but that they will thus admit of a higher degree of uniformity, simplicity, and accuracy of expression: of *uniformity*, because all, or nearly all, the facts now sought are more or less readily resolvable into numbers; of *simplicity*, because by numbers, and the accurate definition and strict use of such terms as bear a technical meaning,

comparisons may be made and conclusions arrived at with the highest degree of certainty yet permitted to human reasoning; and of *accuracy*, because, when the elements of a problem are reduced to forms possessing the utmost attainable uniformity and simplicity, the chances of an erroneous solution are reduced to the narrowest possible compass.

Accordingly, the first efforts of the Committee will be directed to the formation of a series of statements, as accurate and complete as may be, of the social evils of the locality, now existing, and apparently within the scope of remedies already applicable, or which may shortly become so. In these efforts they count with confidence upon the assistance of all whose opportunities may enable them to render it. Of the success of such efforts, if made with due energy, no reasonable doubt can be entertained. Further, what may be done amongst us will doubtless be done simultaneously, or very soon afterwards, elsewhere. And as the most important of the remediable social evils of our time affect many localities, it may be safely inferred that all investigations of this nature will, in proportion to the accuracy of their method, and the truth of their results, rapidly receive such confirmation as may be requisite to enforce the authoritative application of fitting remedies.

With this view, the Committee beg leave to suggest the following topics, as worthy of early attention:—

LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE.

I. FOREIGN DEBTORS.—Whether it be expedient that the power of attaching the goods of foreigners, for debts due in this country, already legally exercised in Scotland, in some parts of England, and in foreign countries, should be uniformly extended to all parts of the United Kingdom?

[A paper on this topic will be found in Vol. II. of the Transactions of the Association.]

II. SERVICE OF WRITS.—Whether the Writs of the Superior Courts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, ought not to be servable with effect in either of the other two parts of the United Kingdom?

III. EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS.—Whether final judgments obtained in the Superior Courts of England, Scotland, or Ireland, might not be safely enforced, without delay, and with small additional expense, in either of the other two parts of the United Kingdom?

IV. FOREIGN SHIPPING.—Whether the 504th section of the Merchant Shipping Act, already declared to be applicable only to British vessels, might not be equitably extended to Foreign vessels coming under British jurisdiction?

V. SCURVY.—Is the law regulating diet on board ships in relation to scurvy effective for its purpose?

VI. COURTS OF RECONCILIATION.—What, probably, would be the effect of instituting such Courts, to which parties contemplating litigation might resort,

in the first instance, for mutual explanation, and the advice of a competent authority, on the matters in difference?

EDUCATION.

I. THE PRIVY COUNCIL SYSTEM.—What have been its results in your district? What its defects? And the apparent remedies?

II. SCHOOLS NOT UNDER THE PRIVY COUNCIL, of all descriptions.—Their Statistics in your district? How they operate? How apparently defective?

III. LOCAL SUPPLY OF SCHOOLS.—Is it defective, or otherwise, in your district? And with what effect, especially on the social condition of the district?

IV. SCHOOL PAYMENTS.—Their amount, and how determined in your district? And how far connected with the intelligence, or the occupations, or the migrations, of parents?

V. KIND AND DEGREE OF EDUCATION.—What in your district, mainly determines the time spent at School? What provision is made for industrial and domestic training, and for the continuance of education after leaving School?

VI. PUPIL TEACHERS.—Are they, in your district, usually persons in good health; and how does their occupation affect their health?

CRIME.

I. PREVENTION.—Can you suggest any means by which the punishment of Crime can be rendered more certain, and therefore more effective for prevention—

(1) as to detection; (2) as to information to the authorities; (3) as to prosecution; or (4) as to conviction?

II. THE CRIMINAL TENDENCY.—Can you state, and authenticate, any facts illustrating the connection of the criminal tendency with (1) criminal parentage; (2) defect of early training; (3) evil associations; or (4) a defective or insecure provision for merely physical wants?

III. IDLENESS.—To what is the distaste for regular industry, frequently observable in connection with crime, most commonly to be referred; and in particular what observed facts mark its connection with (1) defective organisation, and (2) defect of early training?

IV. PROSTITUTION.—From what classes, and mainly through the operation of what external causes, do women, in your district, become prostitutes? In what manner, and under what circumstances, do women most commonly leave that condition?

V. REFORMATION.—How far is this favored, or obstructed, by the management of your Gaol? Are you personally acquainted with the management of any Juvenile or other Reformatory in your neighbourhood; and, if yea, can you state how it is supported and managed, and the results of its operation?

VI. CRIME UNPUNISHED.—Can you mention any class of criminal offences which commonly escape punishment? and if so, what course would you recommend to secure an enforcement of the law?

VII. A Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society is said to have been attended with good results in Birmingham, Wakefield, and some other towns; do you think such an agency in Liverpool desirable?

PUBLIC HEALTH.

I. INFANT MORTALITY.—Can you state, and authenticate, any facts bearing upon the mortality, in your district, of children, from birth up to three years of age?

II. LODGING HOUSES.—Can you state any facts showing the influence of the registration of common lodging-houses on the health of the inmates? And what additional regulations, if any, do you think desirable?

III. DRAINAGE, VENTILATION, AND SUPPLY OF WATER.—Have these topics received, of late years, increased attention in the districts you are acquainted with? State what improvements have been made, or are in progress; and what are admitted to be necessary, though not yet entered upon. Can you state any facts showing the actual operation, as affecting these topics, of the Public Health Act, or of the Local Government Act?

IV. WASTE OF MANURE.—Can you furnish any precise statements illustrative of the loss incurred in this form by present modes of disposing of the feculent matter and rubbish daily accumulated in towns?

V. PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—Can you furnish, as to any such Institution, a statistical statement of (1) the income, and from what sources; (2) the expen-

diture in detail; (3) the number of persons relieved, distinguishing in-door and out-door, and the classes to which they belonged; and (4) any authentic results, upon the public health of the district, of the relief thus afforded?

VI. BETTER KNOWLEDGE.—Can you suggest any means, the efficacy of which has received the sanction of experience, whereby a better knowledge of the laws of Health may be diffused, especially among the less-informed classes of society?

SOCIAL ECONOMY.

I. PAUPERISM.—Its more prominent, and proveable, causes, as actually observed: physical, intellectual, and moral?

II. INQUIRIES BY THE LABOURING CLASSES.—The best means of inducing, and enabling, the more intelligent among the labourers for wages, in our large towns, to undertake, for themselves, a scientific investigation of the social condition of their class, and the available means of improving it?

III. EXAMPLE.—Its social influence—in the household, in the factory, on the farm, and elsewhere—in transmitting from each class to the one below it either good or bad habits and impressions?

IV. HOUSE-ROOM.—The causes of the present defective House accommodation of the labouring classes, and the effective impediments to its improvement, as evinced by experience?

V. DWELLINGS OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.—Have you noticed any improvement in the structural arrangements of the more recently erected dwellings

of the labouring classes? What are the principal defects of such dwellings in your district? To what extent has the abolition of cesspools and the substitution of water closets for privies been effected? Does over crowding in dwellings other than common lodging-houses prevail to an extent prejudicial to health? Are the legal powers to enforce improvement now in existence brought into use; and are they sufficient to effect what is desirable in reference to these matters?

VI. INTOXICATION.—Why this habit is so much less generally prevalent now than it was thirty years ago?

It will be observed that the five departments of enquiry undertaken by the Association are such as to embrace the entire field of social reform; and that consequently each department is more or less closely connected with several of the others.

Thus *Jurisprudence and amendment of the Law* has an immediate and close relation to crime, and to wrong-doing in all its forms. It has also a direct bearing upon pauperism, and is more or less intimately connected with every part of the frame-work of society.

Education has another, but scarcely less close, relation to crime; and has, above all, so large a share in the character and conduct, and especially in the capacity for good, not only of individuals but of whole classes of the community, and thence in every personal ability or tendency to uphold, or to alter, for better or for worse, the entire social struc-

ture as it is, that it might, with some show of reason, be deemed of deeper import than any one of the other departments.

It were needless to enlarge upon the connexion of *Punishment and Reformation* with *Law*, and with *Education*, as well as with the general security and progress of society.

The social arrangements tending to promote or to deteriorate the *Health* of the whole body of the people bear directly and powerfully upon every project for adding to the length, or to the virtuous enjoyment of life in any section of it.

And in the department of *Social Economy*, which embraces many topics not to be conveniently dealt with under any of the preceding heads, will be found none which is not more or less intimately allied with kindred subjects already so dealt with.

It is apparent, therefore, that an accurate classification of the particular subjects of enquiry to which those who are disposed to aid the Committee may direct their attention, is, in the first instance, of little moment. The results, if duly elicited, will be readily referred to their proper department, when complete. But the Committee are desirous, at the outset, of urging upon all who may be so disposed the expediency of adopting, from the first, and rigidly adhering to, a regular and methodical course of investigation: as being, in all cases, the most effective in the end, and the only one likely to lead to conclusions worthy of an earnest and candid enquiry. And they trust they may be pardoned for

further suggesting that the discovery of truth upon these topics may be materially facilitated by discarding, on the part of the enquirer, all feeling likely to interfere with a clear perception of the facts, as they are, and by cordially receiving and acknowledging all effective aid, from whatever quarter it may come. They may also add that they unhesitatingly invite, from all who may enter into communication with them, the fullest and most candid expression of whatever convictions may be deliberately entertained, touching the topics in question.

It is the intention of the Committee to hold, during the current year, two General Meetings of persons interested in the promotion of Social Science in Liverpool and its vicinity.

The first of these Meetings will take place at St. GEORGE'S HALL, Liverpool, on WEDNESDAY, the 30th of March next, at Two o'clock in the Afternoon. Its principal purpose will be to consider the subjects of, and to allot the task of preparing, such papers as it may be deemed desirable to present from this locality at the next Annual Meeting of the Association. At the subsequent Meeting, of which due notice will be given, such further arrangements will be made as may appear to be requisite immediately preparatory to the next Annual Meeting.

J. T. DANSON, HON. SEC.

FEB., 1859.

*Communications to be addressed to the Hon. Sec.
Eldon Chambers, Liverpool.*

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