



IRISH HARP.  
BADGES OF THE ORDER OF ST. PATRICK.

inspire the Irish people with confidence in our kindly dispositions towards them, and to soften down those asperities which are but too often created by political and religious agitators, it is the noble and disinterested display of British benevolence which occurs on St. Patrick's Day, and which too much pains cannot be taken to improve and perpetuate.

The procession of the children to Freemasons' Hall, which is annexed, is one of the most gratifying and affecting sights which the metropolis presents. There you behold a troop of well-fed, well-instructed, good-humoured, and merry little strangers, who owe it to

your bounty that they are now in the way of becoming respectable members of society, instead of matriculating in the Rookery of St. Giles's—to take a degree at Newgate, or join the Foreign Mission at Botany Bay. We call upon the men of all denominations and every shade of politics to lend a helping hand in this good work. Let the amount of their subscriptions not be regulated by the politics of the chairman who may be called on to preside over the day, but let them, if they can, concur cordially with the "axe" in doing that which, properly speaking, should be the object of their own peculiar solicitude.

KNIGHT OF ST. PATRICK.

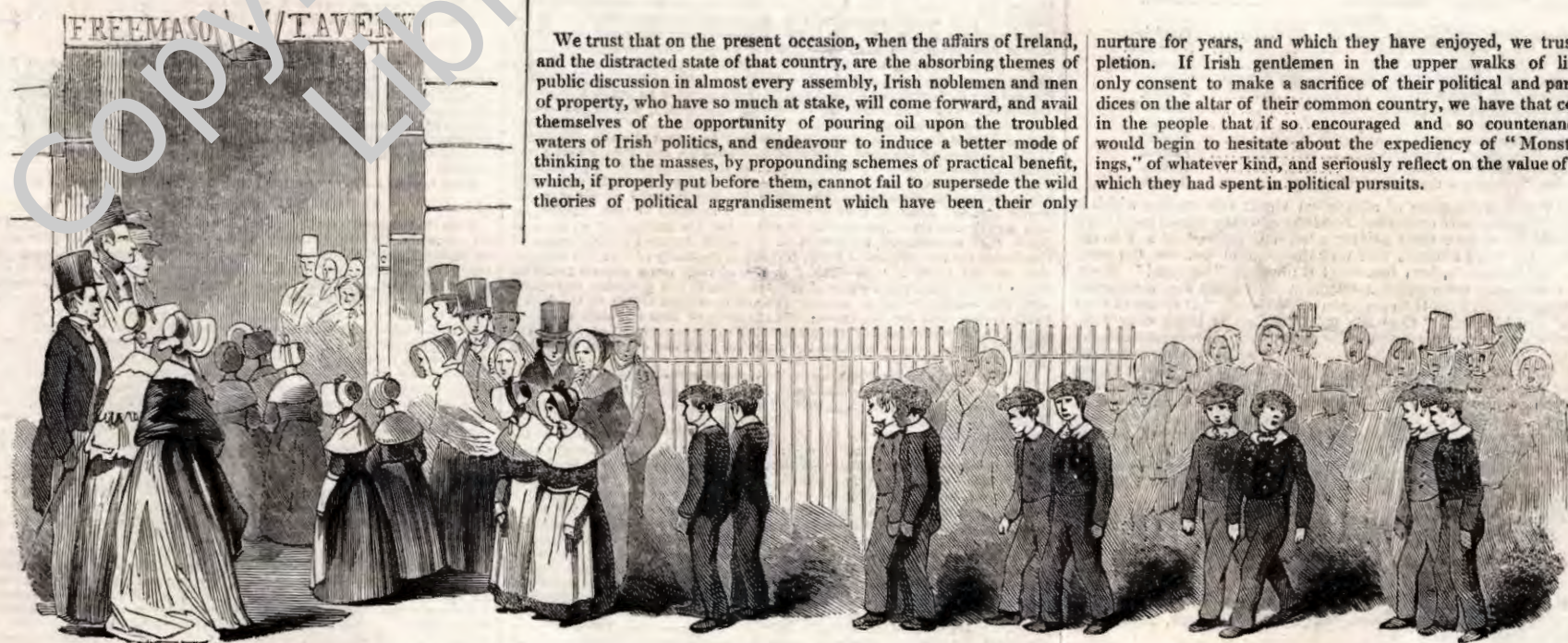
We last year assisted in the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, by laying before our readers a full, true, and graphic account of the birth, parentage, and education of Ireland's illustrious saint, together with a series of engravings illustrative of the manner in which this great occasion is observed at the Castle of Dublin on the morning of every 17th of March, as well as the more quiet and homely way in which it is taken into account, in the evening, by the sons of the shamrock resident in London, at the Freemasons' Tavern, in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields. To-day we have prescribed for ourselves a similar duty, and here present a few sketches, which cannot fail to increase the interest which every honest Englishman takes in the welfare and prosperity of Ireland. Subjoined will be found a view of the Schools belonging to the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick, in Stamford-street, in which upwards of 500 children, belonging to the poorer classes of Irish resident in the British metropolis, are clothed, educated, and maintained. This institution—which is certainly not the least important in its objects of the many temples of charity which do credit to London—is mainly indebted for its support to the appeal made on its behalf at the anniversary dinner of the Society, the sixty-first of which takes place this day, at Freemasons' Hall. The chair is taken, we observe, by that excellent and distinguished young nobleman, Lord Morpeth, who leaves the bed side of a sick father, now, happily, convalescent, to advocate the claims of a charity connected with a nation and a people whom he loves, and by whom in return he is almost idolized. Last year the office of chairman was filled by his Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge, being the first time he had ever appeared in public in that capacity, and his *début* was most successful. We observed, however, upon that occasion the names of those present did not contain the names of many persons connected by the strongest ties with the Sister Country—many who affect to take a deep interest in the welfare of Ireland—who are loud enough when occasion suits them on the subject of education—and whose example of liberality, if properly made, as on an occasion of this kind, could not possibly fail to have a beneficial effect on the minds of the institution. To our mind, if there be one thing better calculated than another to



SCHOOLS OF THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF ST. PATRICK.

We trust that on the present occasion, when the affairs of Ireland, and the distracted state of that country, are the absorbing themes of public discussion in almost every assembly, Irish noblemen and men of property, who have so much at stake, will come forward, and avail themselves of the opportunity of pouring oil upon the troubled waters of Irish politics, and endeavour to induce a better mode of thinking to the masses, by propounding schemes of practical benefit, which, if properly put before them, cannot fail to supersede the wild theories of political aggrandisement which have been their only

nurture for years, and which they have enjoyed, we trust, to repletion. If Irish gentlemen in the upper walks of life would only consent to make a sacrifice of their political and party prejudices on the altar of their common country, we have that confidence in the people that if so encouraged and so countenanced they would begin to hesitate about the expediency of "Monster Meetings," of whatever kind, and seriously reflect on the value of the time which they had spent in political pursuits.



PROCESSION OF THE ST. PATRICK'S CHILDREN TO FREEMASONS' TAVERN.