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LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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TAXATION
IN THE
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND TAXATION
IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM.

A Series of Essays

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE COBDEN CLUB.

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. PREFACE.

IN 1875 the Cobden Club published a volume of Essays upon Local Government by different writers, giving some account of its rise and of its working both in our own and in various foreign countries. Since that time the question has grown in importance, until it now stands in the very fore-front of our practical politics. Indeed, the present Government, of which Mr. Gladstone is the Prime Minister, has declared it to be one upon which legislative action must be taken at the earliest possible date. The Committee of the Cobden Club is therefore glad that it is able to publish a fresh volume of Essays dealing with the question of "Local Government and Taxation in the United Kingdom." The Committee has been fortunate in securing for this purpose the services of able men, who have respectively dealt with different branches of this most important subject. The writers do not, of course, pretend to have treated exhaustively the various portions of it severally dealt with by them. It would have been impossible to do so within the limits, necessarily restricted, of such a volume as the present. But it may with truth be said that the writers have contributed much, both

by their careful statement of facts and by their practical suggestions, towards enabling their readers to understand what is the actual condition of Local Government and Taxation in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as to form some idea, at any rate, of the reforms of which our present system, or rather want of system, stands so greatly in need.

January, 1882.

J. W. PROBYN.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND. By the Hon. GEORGE C. BRODRICK	5
COUNTY BOARDS. By C. T. D. ACLAND, Esq.	89
THE AREAS OF RURAL GOVERNMENT. By Lord EDMOND FITZMAURICE	117
LONDON GOVERNMENT, AND HOW TO REFORM IT. By J. F. B. FIRTH, Esq., LL.B., M.P.	147
MUNICIPAL BOROUGHS AND URBAN DISTRICTS. By J. THACKERAY BUNCE, Esq.	271
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION IN IRELAND. By RICHARD O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., M.P.	319
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION IN SCOTLAND. By WILLIAM MACDONALD, Esq.	385
LOCAL TAXATION IN ENGLAND AND WALES. By J. ROLAND PHILLIPS, Esq.	465

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND.

BY THE HONOURABLE GEORGE C. BRODRICK.

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DURING THE SAXON PERIOD AND THE MIDDLE AGES	5—7

CHAPTER II.

MODERN SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DATING FROM THE REFORM ACT.

Effect of the Reform Act of 1832 on Local Government	8—9
1. Three Main Areas of Local Government in Country Districts— the County, the Union, and the Parish	9—13
2. Distribution of Power among Local Authorities in Country Districts—Business of Quarter Sessions—Gaols, Police, and Lunatic Asylums—Licensing—Highways—Poor Relief— Sanitary Administration—School Administration	14—29
3. Administration of Municipal Boroughs—Constitution and Functions of Town Council—Borough Magistracy— Borough Funds and Borough Rates—Distribution of Power among Local Authorities in Boroughs—Variety in the Municipal Life of Boroughs	30—36
4. Districts under Improvement Commissions and Local Boards	36—38
5. The Metropolis—Municipal Government of the City—The Vestries—The Metropolitan Board of Works—The Metro- politan Police—Metropolitan Poor Law Administration— The London School Board	38—45

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS IT NOW EXISTS
IN ENGLAND.

	PAGES
1. Its Lack of Unity	46—48
2. Vastness and Variety of Interests embraced by it	48—49
3. Good and Bad Examples of Local Government in England	50—52
4. Weakness of Self-government in Country Districts	52—54
5. Influence of Centralising Tendencies	54—57
6. Other Influences Unfavourable to Vigour of Local Government	57—60

CHAPTER IV.

REFORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND.

1. Principles and Limitations to be observed in Reforming Local Government in England	60
Every Local Institution which has Life in it to be, if possible, Maintained	61—62
Reforms of Local Government not to be Determined by Theories of Local Taxation	63—65
Constitution of Electoral and Governing Bodies	65—68
Concentration of Local Councils	68—69
Proper Sphere of Local and Central Authority	70—72
2. Suggestions for a Scheme of Reconstruction	72
Reform of Local Government in Boroughs	73—75
Reform of Local Government in Country Districts and Non-corporate Towns	75—79
Possible Extension of Local Government to Church Affairs	79—80
Parliamentary Representation of Local Councils	80—81
Reform of Local Government in the Metropolis	81—85
No sudden Reconstruction of Local Government to be Attempted	86
Results to be Expected from a Gradual Reconstruction of Local Government.	86—87

PREFATORY NOTE.

• THE following Essay, originally published in 1875, has been entirely re-written for the present volume. In revising the statistics, I have consulted the latest official returns. For much valuable information on the existing system of Local Government, I have been indebted to a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. R. S. Wright in 1877, and issued with a Preface by Messrs. William Rathbone, M.P., and Samuel Whitbread, M.P. For several descriptive passages, I have been indebted to my own volume on "English Land and English Landlords," published at the end of 1880.

GEORGE C. BRODRICK.

Dec., 1881.

INDEX.

- Aberdare, Lord (Mr. Secretary Bruce), 91, 128, 130.
- Absence of self-government in rural communities, 52.
- ACLAND, C. T. D., Esq., on "County Boards," 89—116.
- Acland, Sir Thos. D., 71, 499.
- Act of Elizabeth, for relief of the poor, 11, 120.
- Administration of justice in the City of London, Lord Brougham on the, 160.
- Administrative duties of justices in counties, 123.
- Aldermen, The City, 38, 39, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 179, 213, 232, 262; of municipal boroughs, 30, 277.
- Alterations in county boundaries, 133.
- Amalgamation of City committees and offices, Proposal for, 255.
- Area of the counties in England and Wales, Tabular list of the, 273.
- Area of the Metropolis, Total, 181, 257.
- "Areas of Rural Government," Essay by Lord EDMOND FITZMAURICE, M.P., 117—145; history of the subject, 117—123; changes effected in the Tudor period, 119; the Act of Elizabeth, 11, 120; change in the manners and condition of the people, 120, 121; other legislative changes, 121, 122; administrative duties of justices in counties, 123; administration of other rural matters affecting the county, 124—126; dates or election for different authorities, 127; Dr. Farre on the inconvenience of the conflict of areas, 128; greater cost resulting therefrom, 130; recent Parliamentary enactments, 130; differences in county boundaries, 133; how to make the guardians a really efficient body, 136; various suggestions for improvement, 137—145.
- Arterial drainage in Ireland, 344.
- Artisans Dwellings Act, The, 27, 281, 471, 481, 484, 487.
- Assessment of property for local taxation in Ireland, 347, 488; tabular statistics of, 349; inequality of, in England, 488; greater uniformity of, in Scotland, 489.
- Ayrton, Mr., and City reform, 155, 204, 250.
- Baths and washhouses in the Metropolis, 205.
- Beal, Mr., and municipal reform, 243.
- Billingsgate Market, Monopoly of, by the City of London, 166, 167, 172.
- Birmingham, Conflict of jurisdictions in, 295—298; number of local offices in, 305; the largest municipal debtor after London, 483.
- Board of Guardians, The, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 124, 224; how to improve the efficiency of the, 136, 224; magistrates members of the, 137; the Irish, 326, 327.

- Board of Supervision, The, in Scotland, 408, 409.
- Borough Funds Act, The, 313.
- Borough magistrates, Appointment of, by the Crown, 31; their authority, 18, 19, 32.
- Borough prisons, 280.
- Borough rates, 32, 33, 282.
- Boroughs and counties, Greater freedom in self-government enjoyed by the former, 35.
- Boroughs, Changes made in, by the Reform Bill, 8, 30; effect of the Municipal Corporations Act, 30, 31.
- Boroughs, Difference between larger and smaller, 32.
- Borrowing powers, Local authorities invested with, 291; conditions under which this may be done, 291, 482.
- Boundaries and areas, Necessity for the re-construction of, 72; results of, 73.
- Bribery of the Speaker by the City of London, 164.
- Bridge House Estates Committee, The, 164.
- Bridges, County management of, 20, 119; cost of freeing the Metropolitan, 183.
- BRODRICK, The Hon. G. C., on "Local Government in England," 5-87.
- Brokers, The City, 161.
- Brougham, Lord, on City abuses, 155, 160, 227.
- BUNCE, J. THACKERAY, Esq., on "Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts," 271-318.
- Burgess roll of municipal boroughs, Persons eligible for the, 277.
- Burgh boards in Scotland, 400-405.
- Burial Boards, The London, 207.
- Burials in the Metropolitan area, Discontinuance of, 207.
- Butt, Mr., 351.
- Buxton, Mr., and City reform, 156, 256.
- Bye-laws, Advantageous use of, in municipal boroughs, 281, Camperdown, Lord, and the increase of the Metropolitan Board of Works officials, 262.
- Cattle, Magisterial authority over the removal of, 20.
- Central authority, Advantages likely to be gained in the Metropolis from a, 246-249.
- Central Council, Advantages of a representative, in London, 219, 220.
- Central Criminal Court, The, 160, 161, 169.
- Cess or rate payers in Ireland, 323; suggestions for the benefit of, 357, 358.
- Chamberlain, The City, 39, 167, 170.
- Charters of the City of London, how obtained, 166, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179.
- Charters to municipal boroughs, Usual method of granting, 276.
- Choice of candidates for local offices, 67.
- Christ's Hospital, City control over, 170.
- Church affairs, Proposed local control over, 79, 80.
- Church in Ireland, Revenues of the, 379.
- City Companies, The, 174, 175.
- City endowments, Proposed utilisation of the, 219-221.
- City hospitals, Reforms needed in the, 170.
- City Lands' Committee, 164.
- City of London, Population of the, 38, 260; statistics of the, 261.
- City of London School, 168, 219.
- City organisations in Scotland, 439-442.
- City parishes, Abolition of, 198.
- City paving, lighting, draining, &c., Cost of, 163.
- City police, The, 84, 169, 226; cost of the, in 1880, 169, 229; failure of attempts to amalgamate the City and Metropolitan police, 154, 227.
- Coal, Duties levied by the Corporation of London on, 164, 165, 172.

- Commissioners of Supply in Scotland, 387, 388, 393, 395, 396, 397, 400, 404, 427, 428, 432.
- Commission of Sewers, The, 25, 40, 203, 207, 255; its functions, 163.
- Commission of the Peace, Institution of the, 118.
- Common Council, The City, 39, 160, 161, 162, 168, 169, 170, 179, 181, 232; oath of a Common Councilman, 168; present number of, 259, 261.
- Common Serjeant of London, The, 39, 159, 160.
- Concentration of local business, Advantages expected to result from the, 69.
- Conflict of areas, 258; Dr. Farre on the inconvenience of the, 128, 129.
- Conservancy Board, The Thames, 40, 182, 231—233.
- Conservative plan of relieving burdened local taxation, 503.
- Consolidation of rates, Necessity for the, 126.
- Constitution of electoral and governing bodies, How to deal with the, 65.
- Corporate boroughs, Suggestions for changes in the town council of, 74.
- Corporation of London, The, 156, 162, 176, 231; money squandered or mismanaged by the, 162, 164, 167, 172; revenues derived by the, 164, 170, 171; its liabilities, 171, 172; its accounts, 172; proposed extension of the, to the entire Metropolis, 83, 254—257.
- Council, Proceedings of the, in municipal boroughs, 278; officers appointed by the, 31, 279.
- Councillors of municipal boroughs, Number of, 30, 277; manner of election, 30, 278.
- Counties, Area of, 9; difference in the size and population of, 10; various subdivisions of, 10; average size of a county, 13; chief officers of, 14; difficulties connected with the reform of, 75; division of Ireland into, 320.
- County administration in Scotland, Suggestions for the improvement of, 420—439.
- County asylums for pauper lunatics, 17; management of, 18.
- County Boards, 80, 117; Essay by C. T. D. ACLAND, Esq., 89—116; proposals in Parliament for, 90, 91; qualifications of members for, 95; work for the, 96; sources of information on the subject of, 97; the County Government Bill of 1878, 97; Mr. Rylands on the Conservative proposal for indirect election of members of, 98; arguments against the system of indirect representation, 98, 99; magisterial members, 100; suggestions for the election of members, 101; a local parliament, 103; tenure of seats, 103; various difficulties considered, 104; disproportion of the rating system, 105; beneficial results likely to spring from the establishment of County Boards, 107; the petty sessional district the best electoral area, 108; number of members and tenure of office, 108, 109; best method of electing the members of the board, 108; members of Parliament and mayors to be considered as life members of the board, 109; owners' and occupiers' representatives, 110; work for the board, 112; its composition, 135; separate representation of ownership, 137; table showing the number of petty sessional divisions and unions in each county, 108, 114—116.
- County boundaries, Alterations in, 133.
- County Courts, Revival of the obsolete civil jurisdiction of the, by the Act of 1846, 16.

- County, Expenditure of a, how de-
frayed, 125.
- County Government Bill of 1878,
The, 97.
- County jurisdictions in London,
212.
- County magistrates, Functions of,
and authority exercised by, 15;
their appointment by the Lord
Chancellor, 15; their power in
Tudor times, 119.
- County officials in Scotland, 387—
400.
- County, Origin of the English, 117;
general expenditure of, how de-
frayed, 125.
- County police force, Establishment
of the, 17; State control over
the, 17.
- County rate, Levying of the, in
Tudor times, 119.
- County valuation in Scotland, De-
fects of the, 432.
- Court of Common Hall, The, 172,
175.
- Courts, The City, 169.
- Cross, Sir R. A., 237, 487, 505.
- Custos Rotulorum, The, 14.
- "Day Census" of the City, Results
of the, 260.
- Dean of guild, Office of, in Scot-
land, 439.
- Defects of the present system of town
government, 294—301; sugges-
tions for improvement, 301.
- "Demand note," A, in municipal
boroughs, 33, 126, 489.
- District council, Functions of the, 77.
- Divided Parishes Act, Effect of the,
133.
- Dodson, Mr., M.P., 140, 142, 143.
- Double election, Advantage of, in
local appointments, 68.
- Drainage of the Metropolis, 41, 182.
- Duckham, Mr., M.P., on Union
boundaries, 134.
- Dust, Removal of, in London, 199.
- Duties levied by the London Corpo-
ration on coal, grain, wine, &c.,
164, 165.
- Education Act of 1870, The, 29, 44,
124, 130, 213, 472, 484; in-
creased local taxation caused
therefrom, 472; the Scotch,
406, 415.
- Education Commission, The Duke
of Newcastle's, 71.
- Elcho, Lord, and City municipal
government, 156.
- Elections for the County Board,
101.
- Electors of municipal boroughs, and
number of votes to which they
are entitled, 288.
- Emigration, Grants of money for,
329.
- "Employers of labour," Number of
the, in the City of London, 260.
- Endowments, Necessity of investi-
gating the City, 219, 220.
- English county, Origin of the, 117.
- Equitable adjustment of taxation,
Advisability of a more, 64.
- Expenditure, Increase in, caused by
the multiplicity of local authori-
ties, 130; table showing non-
remunerative and remunerative
expenditure, 467; analysis of
the expenditure for 1880, 468.
- Expenditure in 1879 from Imperial
taxation upon certain services in
Ireland, 372.
- Extension of the Corporation of
London, Proposal for, 83, 254—
257.
- Extravagance and parsimony, one
of the vices of local government,
51, 52.
- Farre, Dr., 13, 36, 128.
- Fawcett, Mr., M.P., 487.
- Feudal barons, Alliance of the
people with the, 118.
- Feudal government essentially local,
6.
- Fiars Court, The, 430.
- Financial affairs of urban authorities,
290.
- FIRTH, J. F. B., Esq., M.P., on
"London Government, and how
to reform it," 147—269.

- FITZMAURICE, Lord EDMOND, M.P., on "The Areas of Rural Government," 117—145.
- Food, High price of London, from City monopoly, 166, 167; tax on, how spent, 166.
- Forster, Mr. W. E., M.P., 91, 243.
- Free institutions of England, Preservation of, in feudal times, 118.
- Freeman's Orphan School, 168, 219.
- Gaols, 16; cost of, how defrayed, 16; State authority over, 16, 18; the visiting committee, 17.
- Gas supply of London, 241—245; statistics of the London companies, 245.
- Gibson, Mr. Milner, on County Boards, 90.
- Gilbert Act of 1782, Powers granted by the, 11, 120.
- Gladstone, Mr., 55, 138, 141, 380, 381, 502, 503.
- Goschen, Mr., 47, 64, 72, 75, 79, 91, 97, 112, 126, 492, 493, 496, 498, 499, 504, 506.
- Government loans for municipal purposes, Origin of, 483; conditions of repayment, 484; loss caused to the State by the system, 486.
- Grain metage in the City of London, 165.
- "Gregory Clause," The, in Ireland, 328.
- Gresham Estate Committee, Mismanagement of the, 164.
- Grey, Sir G., and City reform, 154, 227, 249.
- Griffiths, Sir Richard, and Irish tenement valuation, 489.
- Guardians, How to improve the efficiency of, 136, 224; election of Metropolitan, 221.
- Guilds, The City, 172, 174, 175, 194, 213.
- Guizot, Observation by M., 38.
- Hackney carriages, 230; police control over, 230, 231.
- Hall, Sir Benjamin, and City reform, 252.
- Hibbert, Mr., on the Poor Law Guardians, 127.
- Hicks-Beach, Sir Michael, and Irish affairs, 350.
- High Sheriff, The, 14, 135, 212, 321.
- Highway Board, Expenditure of a, how defrayed, 125.
- Highway districts, 21, 125.
- Highways Act, The, 21, 27, 29, 124, 125, 139, 142, 476.
- Highways, Repair and management of, 20, 21, 142, 144, 476, 478, 479; difficulties connected with the, 113; expenditure on, in 1880, 478.
- Home Secretary, Authority of the, 9, 16, 17, 37, 43, 281.
- Houses, Number of inhabited, in the Metropolis, 269.
- Hundred Court, The, 117, 119, 120.
- Hundred, The, 11, 117, 128; practical disappearance of the, 122, 132.
- Improvement Acts, Authority entrusted to Town Councils by, 281.
- Improvement Commissions, 36.
- Incidence of local taxation, 488.
- Indifference of commercial men to share in the management of the City Corporation, 58, 268.
- Intersections of local government areas in Ireland, 345.
- Ireland, Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY on Local Government and Taxation in, 319—383; origin of the Irish counties, baronies, and townlands, 320; size of counties and baronies, 320, 321; the grand jury, 321, 322; presentment sessions, 321; the cess-payers, 321, 322, 357; public works of the county, 322; county works, 323; gross amount of presentments of grand jury

- cess for 1879, 324; union administration, 325—328; medical relief, 329; emigration grants, 329; sanitary laws, 330; administration of the Poor Law system, 332; statistics of Poor-Law relief, 333, 334; town administration, 335—340; receipts and expenditure of town authorities, 339, 340; lunatic asylum districts, 341, 342; the harbour, 343; arterial drainage, 344; inland navigation districts, 344; intersections of local government areas, 345; local taxation, 347—350; legislation of the late Parliament, 350—352; essential features of county government for Ireland considered, 353—360; out-door relief, 363; recent Parliamentary proposals, 366—371; expenditure during 1879 from Imperial taxation upon certain services in Ireland, 372; education, 376; other matters considered, 377.
- Irish municipal affairs, Debates on, in the late Parliament, 367.
- Irish Society, The, and the City Common Council, 162.
- Jury, Liberty of the subject in the Norman period preserved by trial by, 118; treatment of jurymen in Scotland, 429.
- Justices of the Peace in Scotland, 389, 392.
- Kay-Shuttleworth, Sir Ughtred, and City reform, 156.
- Knatchbull-Hugessen, Mr. (Lord Brabourne), on County Boards, 90.
- Labourers' Dwellings Improvement Acts, 27.
- Lack of unity in the present system of local government, 46.
- Landowners, Local power possessed by the, in rural districts, 58.
- Law of settlement, Changes made in the, by Mr. Pitt, 121.
- Law, Superiority of the, to the power of the barons in feudal times, 118.
- Lea Conservancy Board, The, 231, 234, 235.
- Lewis, Sir G. C., and City reform, 154.
- Liberal Government, Present strength of the, in the counties, 113; a good opportunity for the, 113.
- Licences for sale of liquor, Magisterial control over, 18, 19, 131; the proper function of the Town Council, 312.
- Licensing Act of 1874, Effect of, in country districts, 19.
- Liverpool, Municipal government of, 48; growth of local taxation in, 48.
- Livery Companies, The City, 158, 161, 172, 173, 174, 175.
- Loans for municipal purposes, 49, 282, 471, 483; three ways of borrowing money, 482; loss caused to the State by municipal loans, 486.
- Local and imperial government, Distinction between, 70.
- Local and municipal government, Difference between, 274.
- Local board, Candidates for the, 78.
- Local boards, how constituted, 287; sanitary and other powers possessed by, 288—290; borrowing powers created by the Local Government Act, 291.
- Local boundaries, Difficulties connected with the rectification of, 62.
- Local councils, The functions of, discussed and considered, 264.
- Local expenditure, Non-remunerative and remunerative, 467.
- Local Government Act, 34, 37, 271, 272, 276, 281, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 337; powers conferred upon local boards by virtue of

- this Act, 288; special officers required to be appointed by this Act, 279, 290.
- "Local Government and Taxation in Ireland," Essay by RICHARD O'SHAUGHNESSY, M.P., 319—383 (*see* Ireland).
- "Local Government and Taxation in Scotland," Essay by WM. MACDONALD, Esq., 385—463: county organisations, 387; the Commissioners of Supply, 387, 388, 393, 395, 396, 397, 400, 404, 427, 428, 432; the Lord-Lieutenant, 388; justices of the peace, 389, 392; the sheriff-principal, 389; the sheriff-substitute, 390; duties of the sheriffs, 391; the road trustees, 392; abolition of tolls, 394; other county officials, 395—400; burgh boards, 400; royal burghs, 400; burgh expenditure, 401; police and sanitary expenses, 402; the town council, 401, 403; parish boards, 405—418; the Poor Laws, 408; other parochial duties, 414; educational matters, 415—418; suggested reforms, 418—463; county administration, 420; city organisations, 439; parochial boards and taxes, 442; general matters, 455; summary of the previous suggestions, 461.
- Local Government Board, The, 9, 22, 28, 37, 38, 132, 224, 225, 271, 281, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 289, 316, 325, 327, 329, 330.
- Local government districts, Increase of, 37; number of, in England and Wales, 285; chaotic condition of the present system, 465; suggested reduction in the number of officials, 496.
- "Local Government in England," Essay by the Hon. G. C. BRODRICK, 1—87: its Saxon origin, 5; its gradual extinction by the rise of the feudal system, 6; impetus given to local government by the First Reform Bill, 8; establishment of the Local Government Board, 9; how local government in rural districts is exercised in the present day, 14; powers exercised by magistrates, 18, 19; highway districts, 20; the Poor Laws, 22; Public Health Act, 22; the Education Act of 1870, 28, 44; urban communities, and changes made in them by the Reform Bill and subsequent Acts, 30; defrayment of expenses of municipal government, 32; town councils, 33—35; local government districts, 37; unique position of the City of London, 38—40; the Metropolis generally, 40; lack of unity in local government, 46; causes of its diversity, 47; its occasional extravagance or parsimony, 51, 52; new centres and new modes of self-governing energy, 54; State control over its functions, 55; centralising tendencies antagonistic to effective local government, 56, 57; indifference to local government among the higher classes, 58, 59; various suggestions for legislative improvements, 60—87.
- Local indebtedness, Alarming increase of, 471, 472, 479; tables showing the, 480, 481.
- Local rates subsidised from Imperial funds, Table showing the extent of, 55.
- Local taxation, Aggregate yield of, during 1879-80, 49; difficulty of making all descriptions of property pay equally towards taxation, 63, 205, 466; non-remunerative and remunerative, 467, 468; proposals for the reform of, 472; incidence of, 488; report of the Select Committee of 1870, 500.
- "Local Taxation in England and Wales," Essay by J. ROLAND PHILLIPS, Esq., 465—506; aggregate yield of local taxation in

- 1879-80, 49; amount of outstanding loans, 49; burden and incidence of taxation, 465; unequal taxation, 466; table showing non-remunerative and remunerative expenditure in 1871-1880, 467; analysis of the expenditure for 1880, 468; table showing remunerative taxation, 469; average poor rate for ten years, 470; increase in the burdens of the urban ratepayers, 471; the education rate, 472; the poor rate, 473; tabular summary of the poor rate for ten years, 474-476; maintenance of the highways, 476-479; enormous indebtedness of local authorities, 479; examples of these debts, 480, 481; three modes of borrowing money, 482; Government loans to local authorities, 483; rate of interest chargeable thereon, 484; amount advanced on current and unclosed loan services, 485; loss to the State by Government loans for local purposes, 486; necessity for uniform assessment of property, 488; Griffiths' valuation in Ireland, 489; greater uniformity of assessment in Scotland, 489; the Union Assessment Committee Act of 1863, 489, 490; increase in ratable property during the last ten years, 490, 491, 492; other proposals for securing uniformity of valuation, 493; incidence of local taxation, 496; proposed division of the rates between owners and occupiers, 499; reasons why the public exchequer should not bear the cost of local matters, 503-506.
- Local taxation in London, Unequal incidence of, 205.
- London, City of, 38; its population, 38; its municipal officers, 38; election of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, 39; the Sheriffs, 39; the Lord Mayor's Court, 39; functions of the Lord Mayor, 39; the City police, 40; the Thames Conservators, 40. (*See also* London Government.)
- London gas supply, The, 241-245; statistics of the London companies, 245.
- "London Government, and how to Reform it," Essay by J. F. B. FIRTH, Esq., M.P., 147-269: reason why municipal reform was not granted to London, 153; unsuccessful attempts at reform, 154; efforts by private members to introduce municipal government in London, 155; the Corporation of the City of London, 156; functions of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and other City officers, 157-160; the Common Council, 161-163, 168; the Commission of Sewers, 163; City revenues, 164; the food supply, 167; other City offices and officers, 168-172; the Livery, 173; no governing charter possessed by the Corporation, 176; various charters received by the City, 177; the Metropolitan Board of Works, 180-197; the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, 41, 186; paving, cleansing, and lighting of London streets, 199-203; sanitary matters, 203; collection of public rates, 204; vestries and district boards, 198-209; Corporation of Westminster, 209-211; Tower of London, 212; School Board for London, 213-220; Poor-Law administration in London, 221-225; the London police force, 226-230; London cabs, 230; Thames Conservancy Board, 231-233; the Lea Conservancy Board, 234; the water-supply of the Metropolis, 235-240; London gas supply, 240-245; considerations for reform of London government, 246-268; table of population, inhabited

- houses, and ratable value of London, 269.
- London municipal jurisdictions requiring change, 247.
- London pauperism, Statistics of, 222.
- London proper, The Hon. G. C. BRODRICK, on: Population of, 40; local government of, 40; drainage of the metropolis, 41; the Metropolitan Board of Works, 41; the Fire Brigade Committee, 41; other functions of the Metropolitan Board, 42; the Metropolitan police, 42; Poor-Law administration, 42, 43; its peculiarities, 43; the London School Board, 44; necessity for reform of municipal institutions in London, 81; absurdity of Parliamentary interference in metropolitan local affairs, 82; two plans for municipal reform, 82. (*See also* London Government.)
- London School Board, The, 44, 45, 213—220, 250, 261; statistics of, 45, 215; expenditure and liabilities of, 218; a good specimen of local government, 51, 85, 217, 266; capital expenditure and liabilities for 1881, 218.
- London streets, 201; waste of labour involved in the repair of the, 202, 244; four authorities possessing the right to tear up the, 202.
- London water-supply, The, 235—240; amount delivered by the companies in 1880, 236; proposals for a new supply, 237—239.
- Lopes, Sir Massey, 112, 499, 503, 504.
- Lord-Lieutenant of the county, The, 14, 54, 388.
- Lord Mayor of London, The, 38, 39, 157, 158, 160, 161, 232; his election, 39, 40, 157; his functions, 157.
- Lord Mayor's Court, Privileges of the, 39.
- Lunatic asylums in Ireland, 341—343.
- MACDONALD, W., Esq., on "Local Government and Taxation in Scotland," 385—463. (*See that article.*)
- Magisterial authority, its gradual growth, 8, 119; instances of its unlimited exercise, 18, 19, 20, 53.
- Magistrates and ratepayers, The terms, 93; their presence at the County Board, 77, 92, 93, 137.
- Magistrates, Duties of county, 15; effect of the Licensing Act of 1874 on, 19; appointment of the Metropolitan and county, 42, 100.
- Main drainage of London, 41; cost of the, 182.
- Market jurisdiction of the City of London, 166.
- May, Sir Erskine, Definition of a parish by, 12.
- Mayne, Sir Richard, and the police force of the Metropolis, 226.
- Mayor of a municipal borough, The, 31.
- Mediæval local government, its individuality, 9.
- Medical officer, Appointment of, under the Local Government Act, 290; appointment of, in the Metropolis, 203.
- Medical relief, Cost of, in Ireland, 329.
- Metropolis Local Management Act, 154, 180, 181, 182, 209; receipts for 1879-80, 208; table of the population, inhabited houses, and ratable annual value of the London parishes under this Act, 269.
- Metropolis, Unique position of the, among urban communities, 38, 81; municipal reform for the, 82; area of the, 181, 257, 258.
- Metropolitan Asylums Board, 43, 44, 51, 68, 222, 225; its expenditure, 223.

- Metropolitan authorities, Confusion in the functions of the, 41.
- Metropolitan Board of Works, The, 26, 40, 41, 68, 84; establishment of, 180, 249; inequality of its representation, 181; its main drainage works, 182; bridges freed by the, 183; street improvements effected by the, 184; parks and open spaces, 185, 186; the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, 186—188; other powers of the Board, 189, 190; its liabilities, 195; its loans, 195; its income and expenditure, 196, 197; its proposal for a new water supply, 237; its inactivity on the subject of the gas supply of London, 242, 243; large amount of work performed by its few members, 261; Lord Camperdown's suggested increase in the number of the members, 262.
- Metropolitan Common Poor Fund, 221, 490.
- Metropolitan Police, The, 42, 226, 229, 230; cost of, 229.
- Metropolitan Poor Relief Expenditure in 1880, 222.
- Military roads in Scotland, 437.
- Mill, Mr. J. Stuart, 60, 66, 67, 70, 71, 155, 263.
- Mismanagement of City affairs by the London Corporation, 162, 164, 167, 172.
- Mortmain, Lands held by the City of London against the Statute of, 174.
- Mortuaries, Erection of, by local boards in special cases, 205, 280, 289.
- "Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts," Essay by J. THACKERAY BUNCE, Esq., 271—318: four classes of town government in England, 271; how municipal boroughs are usually constituted, 276; qualification for being placed on the voting list, 277; its governing body, 278; the council, 278, 279, 280; rating and borrowing powers of municipal corporations, 281—283; non-municipal towns, 284—291.
- Municipal boroughs, Number of, in England and Wales in 1879, 33, 272; tabular list of in 1881, 273; difference between municipal boroughs and local board districts, 274; ratable value of, 49; four classes of, 292; difference in size and population, 293; conflict of local jurisdictions and defective arrangement of areas, 295.
- Municipal Corporations Act, The, 30, 31, 33, 34, 38, 155, 156, 176, 248, 257, 267, 275, 276, 279, 282, 290, 292, 293, 303, 312, 369; local government in municipal boroughs originated by this Act, 275, 276; subsequent amending Acts, 276.
- Municipal debts, 49, 479, 481, 483.
- Municipal government, Expenses of, 32; legislative enactments for, 30—33; subsequent legislation, 33; true idea of, 301—307; limitation of the freedom of, 313.
- Municipal or borough rate, how made, 282.
- Municipal reform in the Metropolis, Necessity for, 81—84, 246, 247.
- Municipality of London Bill, The, 163, 252, 257, 265.
- National system of education in Ireland, Contributions in support of, 376.
- New Corporation for London, Desirability of a, 247; its members, 261, 262; advantages of triennial election, 266; future benefits of the change, 268.
- Nomination preferable to election in local executive appointments, 67.
- Non-municipal towns, Government of, 76, 284—291.
- Non-remunerative local expenditure, 467.

- Nuisance Removal Acts, 25.
 Nuisances, Authority vested in local boards for the removal of, 289.
- Officers of counties in England, 15 ; in Scotland, 387.
 Origin of the English county, 117.
- O'SHAUGHNESSY, RICHARD, M.P., on "Local Government and Taxation in Ireland," 319—383. (*See* Ireland.)
- Out-door relief in England and Ireland, 363 ; in England and Wales, in 1871, 471.
- Overseer of a parish, 120, 126, 473 ; desirability of retaining the office of, in every parish, 76.
- Owner, Definition of an, 287.
- Owners and occupiers, Rates paid by, 487, 496, 497 ; division of the liability in Scotland and Ireland, 499 ; division of the rates between, 501.
- Parish, The, the primary area of local government, 12, 130 ; civil and ecclesiastical parishes, 12, 75 ; Sir Erskine May's definition of a parish, 12 ; its present position in local government, 13 ; average size of a parish, 13 ; Mr. Goschen's proposals for the local government of a, 75 ; suggestions for the best method of dealing with the question, 76 ; the electoral unit for rating purposes, 75, 99 ; expenditure of a, 125 ; dividing limits of a, 198 ; the largest Scotch, 405.
- Parish boards in Scotland, 405—418.
- Parishes of the Metropolis, Growth of the, 180 ; number of, 198.
- Parochial boards in Scotland, 444—455.
- Parochial vestry, the governing body of a parish, 126.
- Paupers, Number of, in London, in 1880, 222 ; in England and Wales, 470.
- Paving, watering, and cleansing of the London streets, 200—203.
- Peel, Sir Robert, 140, 176, 227.
- Personal property, Share of the burden of taxation by, 502.
- Petty sessional divisions and unions in each county, Number of, 108, 116.
- Petty sessions, 15, 19, 20, 23, 78, 91, 108, 116, 120, 275, 281.
- PHILLIPS, J. ROLAND, Esq., on "Local Taxation in England and Wales," 465—506. (*See* Local Taxation in England and Wales.)
- Pitt, Mr., and changes in the law of settlement, 121.
- Police, The City, 84, 169, 226—229 ; the Metropolitan, 42, 229 ; necessity for a uniform system throughout the Metropolis, 226.
- Poor Law Amendment Act, 11, 22, 23, 29, 327 ; the Scotch, 408, 412, 413.
- Poor Law Rating Act, The, 326.
- Poor Law guardians, Table showing the election, qualifications, and tenure of office of, 127.
- Poor Laws of Elizabeth, Effect of the, 11, 120.
- Poor Law system, Administration of the, in Ireland, 332 ; expenditure of the, 333 ; statistics of the, 334.
- Poor Law system of the Metropolis, 43, 221 ; proposed central control of the, 224.
- Poor Law Union, the unit of organisation, 129.
- Poor rates, Value of, in 1834, 22 ; collection of the, in London, 204 ; average rate per head for the last ten years, 470 ; how levied, 473 ; amount raised during the last ten years, 474 ; sum expended on the poor, 475 ; sum paid for other purposes out of the poor rate, 476 ; tabular valuation of rateable property for 1870-79, 491.
- Poor Relief in Ireland, Statistics of the, 333, 334.
- Poor relief in Scotland, 407—413.

- Poor, The London, 193; the Scotch, 407.
- Population of the City of London, 260; of the Metropolis, 269; of the counties of England and Wales, 273, 470.
- Prisons Act, Effect of the, 280.
- Public Health Acts, Various, 21, 24, 25, 26, 34, 36, 37, 73, 74, 108, 271, 276, 281, 284, 286, 288, 292, 368, 402, 403, 409, 414, 466, 469, 471, 478, 484; powers conferred upon local boards by these Acts, 288.
- Public Works Loan Commission, 219, 291, 468, 471, 482, 483, 485; total amount advanced by the, 485; table showing the assessment of Metropolitan property for the, 492.
- Quarter Sessions, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 31, 32, 68, 78, 79, 90, 100, 109, 119, 120, 124, 141, 142, 275, 279, 280, 281, 283, 477, 478, 493, 501.
- Ratable value of the Metropolis, Discrepancies in the, 181; increase in the, 195, 470, 491, 492; tabular list of the Metropolitan parishes, 269; tabular value of property in England for 1870-79, 491.
- Ratepayer, Grievances of the, 144; definition of a, 287; perplexities of the, 466, 494.
- Ratepayers, The Metropolitan, 40; the magistrates and the, 92, 93; privileges of, in municipal boroughs, 277.
- Ratepaying qualification, Want of, among the working classes, 66.
- Rates, Power of making the, 126; necessity for the consolidation of, 126; collection of the, 204.
- Rathbone, Mr., M.P., 48, 65, 75, 97, 309, 310, 381.
- Rating, Consideration of the principles of, 64, 65.
- Read, Mr. C. S., 97, 493.
- Reckless expenditure, Beneficial check on, 283.
- Recorder of London, The, 39, 159, 176.
- Recorder of municipal boroughs, The, 30, 35; appointment of, 280.
- Reform Bill of 1832, Improvements in local government effected after the passing of the, 8, 30.
- Reform in the Corporation of London, Failure of Government measures for, 154-156, 167; various proposals for reform of London government considered, 246-268.
- Reform of local government a preparatory step to any extension of its sphere, 71.
- Registrar-General, Territory of the, 226.
- Registration districts, Complication of the areas of, 129, 293, 296.
- Registration returns, Commencement of, 225.
- Relief of the poor, Act of Elizabeth for the, 11, 120.
- Remembrancer, The City, 170.
- Remunerative local taxation, 469.
- Repeal of the City charters, Desirability of, 177.
- River navigation, Control of the Thames and Lea, 231-235.
- Road trustees in Scotland, 392.
- Roads and highways, Repair and management of, 20, 21, 142, 144, 476, 477; extravagance of the turnpike system, 142.
- Rural administration in England, Confusion of, 128.
- Rural sanitary districts, 26, 131, 284, 330.
- Russell, Lord John, 155, 227, 228, 312.
- Rylands, Mr., on county boards, 98.
- Sanitary Act, The, 25, 29, 130, 205, 330, 485.
- Sanitary districts, Number and population of, in 1881, 26.

- Sanitary powers conferred upon local boards by the Public Health and Local Government Acts, 288.
- Sanitary regulations, Want of uniformity in, throughout the kingdom, 46.
- School Board, The London, 44, 45, 213—220, 250, 261; statistics of, 45, 215; expenditure and liabilities of, 218; the best specimen of local government, 51, 85, 217, 266; capital expenditure and liabilities for 1881, 218.
- School Boards and Town Councils, Amalgamation of, 74, 75.
- School Boards, The Scotch, 415—418.
- School rates in municipal boroughs, 32, 282; increased taxation caused therefrom, 472.
- Sclater-Booth, Mr., M.P., 91, 97, 137, 492, 493.
- Scotch Poor Law, The, 386.
- Scotland. (*See* Local Government and Taxation in Scotland.)
- Separate municipalities, Difficulties of, 250.
- Separate representation of ownership, Consideration of the argument for, 137.
- Sewage Utilisation Act, 25.
- Sewers, Commissioners of, 25, 40, 163, 201, 203, 207.
- Sheriffs, The City, 39; the Scotch, 389—391.
- Sheriffwicks, 213.
- Smithfield Market, 166, 167, 172.
- Southwark Street, Reckless waste of money caused by the gas companies in, 244.
- Stansfeld, Mr., M.P., 91, 504, 505.
- Street-paving, watering, &c., of the Metropolis, 200—203; of municipal boroughs, 290.
- Summary jurisdiction, Power of, 119.
- Summary Jurisdiction Act, The, 15.
- Surveyor of roads, Unpractical men sometimes appointed to the post of, 144.
- Taxation, Inequality of the present system of, 466; probable local increase of, 471; increase caused by the operation of the recent Education Acts, 472; proposals for the reform of, 472.
- Thames Conservancy Board, 40, 182, 231—233.
- Thames Embankment, The, 41, 165, 183.
- Thorough reform of local government, Necessity of a, before legislative extension of its sphere, 71.
- Tolls, Abolition of, in Scotland, 394.
- Tower of London, The, 212; proposal for abolition of the jurisdiction of, 247.
- Town administration in Ireland, 335—341; statistics, 339—341.
- Town council, the one governing body of a town, 30, 304, 305; officers appointed by the, 31; duties of the, 34; suggested changes in the constitution of, 74; membership of the, an object of ambition, 74, 302.
- Town councils, Special functions of, in municipal boroughs, 280; authority conferred by Improvement Acts, 281; duties of the Scotch, 401—405.
- Town government, Defects of the existing systems of, 294—301; suggestions for improvement, 301—318.
- Towns Police Clauses Act, Effect of, in removing nuisances, 290.
- Tramway schemes, Unprotected condition of the London people respecting, 206.
- Trelawney, Sir John, on County Boards, 90.
- Turnpike system, Mr. Dodson, M.P., on the extravagance of the, 142.
- Ulster, The Livery companies of London owners of land in, 162.
- Unified system of municipal govern-

- ment in London, Arguments against, 251.
- Uniformity of valuation, Proposals for securing, 493, 494.
- Union administration in Ireland, 325—328.
- Union Assessment Committee Act of 1873, Effect of, 489, 490.
- Union areas and county boundaries, 132, 135; Mr. Duckham on, 134.
- Union Chargeability Act, 23, 63, 315.
- Union, Expenditure of a, 125.
- Union, the area of local administration, 131.
- Unions, Number of, in England and Wales, 11; average size of a union, 13; expenditure of, 125.
- Urban communities, Recent legislative changes in favour of, 30—36.
- Urban ratepayers, Increase in the burdens of, 471.
- Urban sanitary districts in England and Wales, 26, 272; aggregate population of, 26; table showing the number of, 273; definition of urban districts, 284; number of persons under the government of, 285; constitution of, 285; local government of, 216—222.
- Valuation Act of 1869, The, 490, 491, 494.
- Valuation, Satisfactory state of the Scotch system of, 494.
- Vestries and District Boards, Duties and powers of, 198—209, 224; rates collected by the, 204; how best to improve the Metropolitan vestries, 83, 84, 247, 262.
- Vestry, The parochial, 126.
- Waleran, the huntsman, and county boundaries, 133.
- Walpole, Mr. Spencer, M.P., 167.
- Want of unity the chief defect in municipal government, 299.
- Wapentakes, or hundreds, 10.
- Wards, liberties, and sokes, 10; the City, 161.
- Watchmen and watch rate, Acts authorising the, 17.
- Water companies of the Metropol Capital, expenditure, and ceipts of the, 240.
- Water supply of the Metropolis, 235—240.
- Westminster, The "Corporation" and "City" of, 209—211; its officers, 211; proposal for abolition or modification of, 247.
- Whitbread, Mr., M.P., on County Boards, 97.
- Women householders, Voting powers exercised by, in municipal boroughs, 277.
- Working classes, The local franchise seldom exercised by the, 66.
- Wyld, Mr., on County Boards, 90.

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