AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING IN NEW YORK LAST NIGHT.

Henry George Enunciates the Principles of the Society, and Father McGlynn Advocates Them in Words of Fiery Eloquence --- He Wants a Democratic Pope.

New York, May 8. Amid a whirlwind of enthusiasm the Anti-Poverty society, with Dr. Edward McGlynn as its president, was inaugurated at Checkering hall last night. Fully two hours before the proceedings commenced even standing room was at a premium.

Henry George presided. In his opening speech he said:

"The presence of such an audience at the first meeting of the Anti-Poverty society shows that there is in this community a wide-spread sentiment in unison with its objects. This society has been formed for the purpose of fighting the social crime of poverty --- no, I should not say it has been, rather it is to be formed to-night,, and we invite all, man or woman, to join us.

"In starting this society we do not promise to start a church. There are already in this community churches enough, and if churches could abolish poverty and all the vice and crime that spring from it there would be no need for our society. There will be nothing of creed on this platform. Orthodox Catholics, orthodox Jews, Methodists, Episcopalians all are welcome. If Archbishop Corrigan chooses to join it he is welcome. If Col. Bob Ingersoll likes to come he is welcome.

"We shall not at our meetings pray to God or praise him," continued the speaker; "all the same we shall do the work of God. We propose to do something for the suffering thousands among us. We propose to arouse a religious sentiment in men and women to help each other. We propose to what charity cannot do --- abolish poverty. We hold that the poverty that festers in the heart of our great city does not arise from the niggardliness of the Creator, but from man's injustice, and it is a shame for us if we do not strike at the very roots of this injustice. Hence we must preach the doctrine of Him who said, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, you have done it to me.'
We must not fear persecution, for the man who stands up for the rights of man has little else to expect."

When the cheering elicited by this last remark had subsided, Mr. George announced that weekly meetings of the Anti-Poverty society would be held and addressed by the best speakers that could possibly be procured.

While Mr. Weldon played several selections on the organ a collection was taken up and slips were passed around on which those who desired to join the new society were requested to sign their names. After a tenor solo by Sig. Dutcenter, Dr. McGlynn stepped to the front of the platform and commenced his address. Almost every sentence of the reverend gentleman's address was punctuated with a long continued outburst of cheering.

"I am intensely conscious," he began, "that we stand here tonight upon a historic platform; that those who are first to form this Anti-Poverty society will treasure as something exceedingly precious the little bits of paper that certify that they are among those who first commenced and carried into action the purpose of this association, and that you will love to tell your children of the initiative steps of this great cause.

"It is not amiss," continued Dr. McGlynn, "that I, a priest of the church, should stand here tonight to speak of the cause that proposes to abolish poverty. That cause is clothed with poetry, full of pathos and radiant with heavenly light. I should be recreant to my manhood, recreant to my Christianity, and above all recreant to my sacred priesthood if I now speak any uncertain word. The time has come for an active warfare against the conditions that, in spite of the advance in the powers of production, condemn so many to degrading poverty and foster vice, crime and greed. Let us pluck out, then, the very heart of that horrid thing. Let us tear up the accursed, perennial and fruitful root of this horrid poverty."

Continuing, Dr. McGlynn said that his audience --- he would not say congregation --- were all children of God. Consequently they all belonged to the one family. If God is a father, He is not a step-father. He loves all His children alike, and would have them all love one another like brothers and sisters in spite of color, race or creed.

"The laws of nature require us to labor," said he. "Work is not entirely a curse. God intended it to be an enjoyable part of man's education, to fit him to come home from school and to rest in the peace and quiet and blessed light of his Father's home. Labor
is not a bad thing; it is a necessity. As the population increases it is demanded that man shall use his cunning to cheat the earth of her hidden beauties. Labor is the fruitful source of all great things, that enables man annihilate space and time; to hasten the day when God's children shall be one family. Dr. McGlynn then said that he did not intend to become a Protestant nor preach against the pope, but would remain a Catholic forever.

Continuing, he said: "Religion will never be right until we see a democratic pope walking down Broadway with a stovepipe hat and an umbrella under his arm. In my opinion that man will be the greatest of popes. Instead of having men carry him on their shoulders, he will have the laugh on them, for he will carry them in his heart."

Mr. George announced that sixty-eight applications had been received and their collection amounted to $280. The services closed by the singing of an anthem by the audience.