

Munster Railway, from Dublin to Cork, by Kilkenny, Clonmel, Cahir, &c.

In 1840 he met with some disappointments and losses, which weighed heavily on his mind, and were the principal cause of the illness which terminated his life. He died in the 62nd year of his age, respected for his high professional attainments and strict integrity of character, and regretted by all who knew him.

Mr. Robert Gill Ranson, Assoc. Inst. C. E., was a manufacturer of paper at Ipswich; in 1840 he introduced an improved mode of sizing and drying machine-made paper, substituting for the ordinary tedious process of tub-sizing (in which it was requisite that the paper should be previously cut into sheets), a method by which he was enabled to size and dry writing or drawing papers, in the lengths made by Fourdrinier's machine: by this process, the time occupied in the manufacture was reduced, and the uncertainty of the effect of the weather in drying was avoided.

In consequence of a long illness, preceding his decease, this invention was not extensively carried out, but it appears now probable that it will be generally adopted.

Mr. Ranson only became an Associate of the Institution in 1842, but he demonstrated the interest he felt in its welfare, by exhibiting at the President's conversazione a sheet of drawing paper 400 feet in length, which had been completed by his process from the state of rags, in the short space of 48 hours.

He was highly respected by his friends, and his decease, at the age of 51 years, was much regretted.

From the account of the receipt and expenditure of the past year, which is annexed to the Report,* it will be perceived that the liquidation of the debts progresses steadily, that if the arrears of subscriptions were paid, and the orders upon Bankers, or Agents, for the regular payment of the annual subscriptions, were given by the members, the financial position would be very satisfactory; the Council therefore would again urge the necessity for the ready co-operation of members in these measures, which would conduce so much to the welfare of the Institution.

Many members have still neglected appending their signatures to the Register of the Institution: they are particularly requested to defer this duty, lest, as in the case of the members whose deceases have been recorded in this Report, it be delayed until too late.

It will be observed that the name of Mr. John Macneill, who has been for nine consecutive years a Member of Council, is omitted from