

— **EDUCATION FOR LABOURERS' CHILDREN.**—On 31st August, Mr. Fawcett moved in the House of Commons the second reading of the bill providing for the education of the children of the agricultural classes. Lord Shaftesbury's bill had required that the children to whom it applied should go to school 400 hours in the winter and 200 hours in the summer half of the year, and Mr. Fawcett's provided that, instead of this, they should go to school on alternate days. Neither of the bills has become law.

— **OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.**—Mr. Ewart's Bill, to extend the benefits of Education in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to students not belonging to any College or Hall, was read a second time on Wednesday, the 3rd July. It gave rise to an animated discussion, which ended in the second reading being carried by a majority of 164 to 150; and the Bill was then ordered to be referred to a Select Committee, which has now been sitting for some weeks, and is likely to be engaged for some time to come in collecting evidence on the subject. The Bill provides, that "Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act of Parliament now in force relating to either of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or in Statutes, Charters, Deeds of Corporation, or other instruments of Foundation of either of the said Universities, or of any College or Hall within the same, any person may be matriculated without being entered as a member of any College or Hall, and may, if he shall think fit, join himself to any College or Hall with the consent of the head thereof, but without being obliged so reside within the same; and every person so matriculated shall in all respects and for all intents or purposes be and be considered as a member of the University, and upon joining any College or Hall shall in all respects and for all intents or purposes be and be considered as a member thereof."

Among the speakers in support of the Bill were Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Gladstone.—*Educational Times.*

— **NATIONAL EDUCATION, IRELAND.**—The report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland for the year 1866, states that on the 31st of December, 1865, there were 6,372 schools in operation, which had on their rolls, for the year then ended, 922,084 children, with an average daily attendance, for the same period, of 321,209 children. At the close of the year 1866, the number of schools in operation was 6,453. The total number of children on the rolls within the year was 910,819, and the average daily attendance of children for the year was 316,225. As compared with the year 1865, there is an increase of 81 in the number of schools in operation for the year 1866. There is a decrease of 1.2 per cent. on the number enrolled, and of 1.5 per cent. on the number in average daily attendance. Emigration is beginning to have a positive influence upon our school-going population; but independent of this influence, there were other causes, in 1866, calculated to affect the attendance. There are in course of erection 51 ordinary National school-houses, which will contain 72 separate schoolrooms. Also 1 Model school-house, containing 3 schoolrooms. When these 52 buildings shall have been completed they will afford accommodation to 6,360 children. The number of schools struck off the roll during the year 1866 was 75. Of these 69 had been previously in operation, 2 had been suspended, the remaining 4 being merely cases in which grants for building were cancelled. The number of applications for grants to new schools in the year 1866 was 226. To 159 of these the Commissioners promised the required assistance, either for building or for salaries and requisites. The 159 schools are under the management of 130 individuals, several having more than one school under their care. As to religious denominations they are thus divided:—Established Church, 16; Roman Catholics, 94; Presbyterians, 9; other persuasions, 3. The total number of National Schools in each province on the 31st December, 1866, was—In Ulster, 2,382; Munster, 1,576; Leinster, 1,466; Connaught, 1,029. The Protestant pupils numbered, for the year 1866, 171,279; the Roman Catholic pupils, the majority, for the same year numbered 738,794. But of the 171,279 Protestant pupils in National schools 152,412, or 89 per cent., are in attendance in mixed schools.

— **THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.**—The report of the condition and progress of the Queen's University in Ireland for the year 1866-67, by the Right Hon. Maziere Brady, Vice-Chancellor of the University, has been issued. The Report contains an account of the meeting of the Queen's University for conferring degrees in October last; lists of the degrees, certificates, and honours; estimates of the expenditure for the

year 1866; cash account for the year 1866; a copy of the supplemental charter now in abeyance; the Royal warrant; regulations under the supplemental charter; and the meetings of the Senate. All this has already appeared in the public journals, but is now republished in a convenient form.

— **DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.**—In the British Parliament on 24th July, Mr. Fawcett moved—"That in the opinion of this house, it is undesirable that the Fellowships and Foundation Scholarships of Trinity College, Dublin, should be exclusively appropriated to those who are members of the Established Church." Mr. Monsell moved the following amendment:—"That the constitution of the University of Dublin should be altered so as to enable and fit it to include colleges connected with other forms of religion than that of the Established Church, and that the members of such colleges should be entitled to share in all the benefits now enjoyed by the members of Trinity College." After a debate, the amendment was withdrawn, and on the main motion the division stood 108 for to 108 against. The Speaker was of opinion that so important a principle should not be adopted by the mere vote of the presiding officer, and the motion was rejected by his voting with the nays.

UNITED STATES.

— **THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S.**—The Hon. Henry Barnard was appointed in March last, Commissioner of Education, under the Act of Congress then passed to establish a National Department of Education, "for the purpose of collecting such statistics and facts as shall show the condition and progress of education in the several states and territories, and of diffusing such information respecting the organization and management of schools and school systems, and methods of teaching, as shall aid the people of the United States in the establishment and maintenance of efficient school systems, and otherwise promote the cause of education throughout the country." The Act provides for the appointment of a Commissioner and a sufficient staff. A report is to be made annually to congress. "embodying the results of his investigations and labors, together with a statement of such facts and recommendations as will, in his judgment, subserve the purpose for which this department is established." Dr. Barnard is already widely known through his voluminous contributions on the history and condition of education in all countries.

— **THE PEABODY FUND.**—At a meeting of the trustees of this fund, held in the City of New York on the 19th of March, 1867, and continued on the 20th, 21st and 22nd. The Chairman announced that he had received on the 4th of March, orders from Mr. Peabody, for bonds covering the whole amount of his munificent gift, and these orders were thereupon referred to the Finance Committee.

After a full discussion of the subject committed to them, during which the views of the founder of the trust were distinctly explained, and a full report by Mr. Eaton of Maryland had been read and considered, the following report and resolutions, by Bishop McIlvaine of Ohio, from the Committee of Investigation and Inquiry, were unanimously adopted:

The Committee of Inquiry, having carefully considered the important matters referred to them, beg leave respectfully to report the following resolutions:

Resolved, That, for the present, the promotion of Primary or Common School Education by such means or agencies as now exist, or may need to be created, be the leading object of the Board in the use of the funds placed at its disposal.

Resolved, That in aid of the above general design, and as promotive of the same, the Board will have in view the furtherance of Normal School education, for the preparation of teachers, as well by the endowment of scholarships in existing Southern institutions as by the establishing of Normal Schools and the aiding of such Normal Schools as may now be in operation in the Southern and South-Western States, including such measures as may be feasible and as experience may show to be expedient, for the promotion of education in the application of science to the industrial pursuits of human life.

Resolved, That a general agent, of the highest qualifications, be appointed by the Board, to whom shall be entrusted, under the supervision of the Executive Committee, the whole charge of carrying out the designs of MR. PEABODY in his great gift, under such resolutions and restrictions as the Board shall from time to time adopt.