

of last year. I can, however, have no difficulty in stating anew, in terms if possible, more explicit than I did before, that the Roman Catholic Prelates, objected to the compilation in question, on the ground that it is composed of passages taken exclusively and *verbatim* from the Protestant translation of the New Testament; and that so long as it shall continue to retain that character, they will not recommend the use of it in the national schools, under any modification which it can assume.

"I will avail myself of this opportunity to express an opinion, which you will not, I am sure, consider at variance with that respect which I sincerely entertain for the Board of Education Inquiry; it is, that the Board has created for itself a *very needless difficulty*, by requiring, as a matter of necessity, *any scriptural compilation to be used in schools for the purpose of general instruction*. Were the religious instruction of the children, confided wholly to the care of their respective pastors, what appears to be the only remaining ground of disagreement would be removed: and the rest of the plan suggested by the Commissioners might without any difficulty, be carried into immediate and extensive operation." p. 26.

As the Commissioners could not agree upon a united Report, three of them, T. Franklin Lewis, W. Grant, and A. R. Blake state as follows:

"We are still of opinion, that for the children of the lowest orders in Ireland, a system of separate education would be found to be pregnant with evils: that it would tend to increase, rather than to diminish, that distinctness of feeling between persons of different religious persuasions, which is already too prevalent: and we think it therefore most desirable, that a system should be adopted, under which the children might imbibe similar ideas, and form congenial habits, and from which suspicion should, if possible, be banished, and the causes of distrust and jealousy be effectually removed.

"We are of opinion, also, that no system of education can be considered as deserving of that name, which shall not seek to lay the foundations of all moral obligations in religious instruction; but as the difference of their respective tenets renders it difficult for children to receive religious instruction together, we still think that no better course can be adopted than that of uniting children of the different persuasions, for the purpose of instructing them in the general objects of literary knowledge, and of providing facilities for their instruction separately, when the difference of religious belief renders it impossible for them any longer to learn together.

"Although we have failed in the attempt to combine religious with literary instructions, to the extent originally contemplated by us, we still think that object may, to a limited extent, be effected." p. 21.

Two other Commissioners, J. Leslie Foster and James Glassford Esqrs. in a letter to the Secretary of State, which they requested might be appended to the Report, strongly advocate persevering endeavours in the great object in view. We give a short extract:—

"In the variety of plans and systems actually pursued, we see different means and prospects of success. We conceive this to be no longer a matter of speculation, but demonstrated by every day's experience.—Any plan for compelling all the varieties of schools to give way to one inflexible form, would in our opinion be a great mistake. We should say so, even if that particular form had approved itself to be practically good: but we think it would be a still greater