

of the Diocese were to provide the remainder. Even in Elizabeth's own time, this Act seems to have been imperfectly carried out. Mr. D'Alton, in his evidence\* before the Committee on Foundation Schools, mentions a curious record, whereby Queen Elizabeth, understanding that this Act was "slenderly or not at all executed" in Limerick, empowered the Mayor of that city, by mandate, to sequester yearly, and from time to time, so much of the livings, tithes, &c., as belonged to the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese until the Act was complied with.

Various statutes were made during the reign of William III., and his immediate successors, concerning those Schools, but with no satisfactory results. In the year 1818, by the same Act which regulated the Royal Schools, the Diocesan Schools were placed under the control of the same Board, and permission was given to the Commissioners, with the consent and approbation of the Lord Lieutenant, to erect into one district two or more Dioceses, and to consolidate into one District School, the several Diocesan Schools of their united Dioceses. The Lord Lieutenant, with the advice of the Privy Council, is empowered to fix and apportion among the different Dioceses in a district, the Masters' salaries which are to be paid by the same parties, and in the same proportions, as the original Act of Elizabeth directs. The Act further enables the grand jury of the county in which the School is established to present on the county any sum or sums which they should think proper for purchasing a site, and building or repairing a School-house. Notwithstanding all these attempts to improve them, the Schools have never succeeded. In 1838, the Committee of Foundation Schools thus describes their condition: "The Lord Lieutenant will not appoint Masters unless a salary is secured, the salary is refused by the Clergy unless the School is built by the grand jury; the grand jury refuses to build the School, unless the Master stipulates to receive a certain number of Free Scholars: the Master refuses to receive Free Scholars on the compulsion of the grand jury, and the Commissioners will not, or cannot, enforce the right either on the part of the grand jury or their own." At a still later date, no improvement seems to have been made. In their Report for 1850, the Commissioners of Education observe, "As regards the Diocesan Schools, generally, we regret to be obliged to state that with a few exceptions they have failed to be productive of the benefits originally expected from them. This has arisen partly from the mode of payment of the Masters, alike distasteful to the Clergy and to the Master, and partly from the dilapidated state of many of the School-houses, for the repair of which no fund beyond a voluntary presentment by a grand jury is provided by law." There are at present fourteen Diocesan Schools† in operation. They are situated in the towns of Ballymena, Carlow, Cork, Downpatrick, Elphin, Londonderry, Limerick, Mallow, Monaghan, Mullingar, Naas, Rosscarberry, Tuam, and Wexford. The annual number of pupils in each School, on an average of the four years ending 31st December, 1852, was 24, of whom three were Free. It is stated that they have no landed property, and a very small income in some cases in stock. No religious restriction was ever imposed in these Schools. It has been generally supposed that as they are supported by the contributions of the Clergy of the Established Church, they must be strictly Protestant. The following extract from the Report of the Committee on Foundation Schools‡ will show the error of this opinion: "There is nothing in the Act of 12 Elizabeth, or in any subsequent modification of that Act, limiting admission to these Schools to Protestants. The Acts of Charles and William affect the Masters of the Schools only. No later enactment refers to the subject, nor has any by-law been passed by either the Diocesan Clergy, grand juries, or the Board of Commissioners, to that effect. \* \* \* Nor is this confined to the pupils. There is no law now in force requiring the teacher to be of the established religion; and Mr. Quinn, the former Secretary, declares no religious test is exacted, nor is there anything which could preclude a Roman Catholic or Presbyterian from being appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to the mastership of any one of these Schools."

Besides these Schools of public foundation, the Commissioners of Education§ have under their control 23 others, which may be termed private foundations. They are situated at Athlone, Ballyroan, Bandon, Clane, Carrickmacross, Charleville, Clonakilty, Clonmel, Cloyne, Dundalk, Eyre Court, Kilbricken Tenantry, Kilkenny, Kilworth, Kinsale, Lifford, Lismore, Middleton, Navan, Rathvilly, Tullyvin, Waterford, and Youghal. Of these, five, viz., the Kilbricken Tenantry, Kilworth, Lifford, Rathvilly, and Tullyvin Schools, seem to be merely elementary. Of the remaining eighteen, several, such as Eyre Court, are not Classical Schools, but might probably be made such. Excluding Athlone, the Mastership of which was vacant when the return was made, and the five elementary Schools, each of the others, on an average of the four years ending December 31st, 1852, had about 24 pupils yearly, of whom about six were free. It would seem that only three of these Schools, Ballyroan, Clonmel, and Middleton, have their estates vested in the Commissioners. In other cases the payments are, we believe, made directly to the Masters. We cannot state with accuracy the gross amount of their endowments, but from a table compiled by Mr. D'Alton, their united revenues exceed £6000 a year. This amount is, however, apparently too large. With the exception of Tullyvin, they are open to all religious denominations, and no religious qualification is required in the Masters. The appointments are in the gift of the Trustees, or of Corporations, or of Bishops of the Established Church.

It would appear from the evidence given by Mr. D'Alton before the Committee on Foundation Schools, that several other endowments for Educational purposes are, or ought to be, in existence. The charter granting in 1631, one hundred acres of land for a School at Clogher, has been lately printed in the Parliamentary Paper which contains the charters of the Royal Schools. But we believe that no such School is in operation. There are also many other minor endowments of little value singly; but which, if consolidated, might be made most useful. Some further enquiry into this subject would be desirable.

Last of all, and differing from the other Endowed Schools in being under a separate management, are the Grammar Schools of Erasmus Smith. The Committee on Foundation Schools observe, that "it may be a matter of question whether these Schools should be considered private, or public. They are undoubtedly of private foundation, but from the frequent interposition of the legislature, they may in great measure be regarded as public institutions." They were established under a charter granted in 1669, to carry out the intentions of Erasmus Smith, who settled large estates for Educational purposes. The charter provides for the foundation of Free Grammar Schools at Drogheda, Galway, and Tipperary. A fourth, subject to the same conditions, was subsequently founded at Ennis. It further directs that the children of the tenantry on the settled estates, without any restriction as to numbers or residence, should be educated gratuitously, and that the same privilege should be extended to a number of other boys at the discretion of the Governor, provided that the whole number did not exceed twenty, and that they were resident within two miles of the School. For these, all fees are strictly prohibited, but the Master may take from the remainder an entrance fee of two shillings each. As the value of the estates increased, difficulties arose as to the application of the surplus. Various Acts of Parliament were passed, authorizing different forms of expenditure. Several Professorships, to the aggregate value of about £500 a year, were founded in Trinity College, but owing to the depressed condition of the estates, these endowments have been, since 1847, almost wholly withdrawn. Thirty-five exhibitions of the value of about £8 each, and tenable until the exhibitioner has attained Master's standing, that is for a period of seven years from entrance, have also been established in the same Institution.

In reference to these exhibitions, the Provost and Fellows in reply to some enquiries of the Trinity College Commissioners,

\* P. 44.

† Q. 821.

‡ P. 48.

§ Parliamentary Paper, Session 1853, No. 400.

§ The Commissioners of Education here and elsewhere mentioned in this article, must not be confounded with the "Commissioners of National (i. e. Common School) Education in Ireland."