

care to do of the trouble. While, on the other hand, the master (as to whose religious character very little enquiry is made,) too often troubles himself but little about the matter; or at best goes through the subject mechanically,—really treating religious instruction with contempt. It is left to him, and is inadequately discharged. Even the clergyman is too apt to fancy that as the schoolmaster professes to do his duty, it must therefore be done, and so he neglects his bounden duty of catechizing. It is impossible to say to what extent this evil has grown upon us, and how far we are suffering by depriving the religious teaching of children to half-educated, latitudinarian schoolmasters. Of this, too, we may be certain, that the Church has lost much by the neglect of that most important of all matters—public catechizing.

Far better that children should have the faculties of their minds developed at school,—should have the ground broken up and prepared by a general knowledge of the facts of Holy Scripture,—should have the essence of Christianity instilled into them by the master; and then that their parents and sponsors at home, and the clergyman in Church, should publicly and catechetically instruct in the rudiments of the Christian Faith. It has now been done, as indeed it ought to be, we should now have the melancholy spectacle of grown-up persons lamentably ignorant of the first principles of religion. And further, every one who has observed this matter must be aware that where religion is professionally taught in schools, and where there is a fair specimen of a schoolmaster, the actual amount of religious teaching is small and unimportant. It is generally of a negative character, i. e., keeps other systems out of sight; and when it is of a positive kind, it is too often only a fostering of religious prejudice.

A bill to ameliorate Provincial schools has just been published by the Hon. Attorney General. It is much to be regretted that it is not compulsory, as past experience shows that voluntary efforts will not sustain education. Many districts will voluntarily forego the government grant and county assessment, rather than collect the remainder of the teacher's salary. The truth is, that compulsion, and perfect taxation for schools, cannot be applied, owing to the religious prejudices of the people. But why are these to stand in the way of education? The truth is, that we all—and Churchmen specially—must give up our long cherished notions upon this subject. We must be prepared to let religion in its proper place, and not force it as a task upon children in the school-room, and so inseparably connect it with the frequently unjust corporeal ill-treatments of which the school-room is too often the witness.

There are some who have a strange idea that "education without religion is worse than none at all." I beg to take the liberty of questioning this sapient axiom. At any rate, there are some who think differently. But waving this, the great mistake of those who speak thus, is that they take for granted, that if religion were not taught in schools, it would not be taught at all. Now, this is altogether an unwarrantable assumption. Who has a right to conclude that parents and sponsors would neglect so great a duty? They do so now, perhaps, because, as I have already said, they have got into the idea of fancying that it is the master's duty, and his alone. If the parents knew that this duty devolved upon them, would they not be more careful than now to discharge it faithfully, by educating the child religiously at home? As it is, however, parents depute this duty to the teacher; he cannot, or does not, discharge it; and so, in fact, it comes to nothing.

Consider the case of the middle or higher classes in England. Generally, they receive no religious education in schools. This is strikingly the case in the commercial towns, where society is of a mixed character, comprehending all the sects as well as Church people. And yet no one would venture to say that these classes are ignorant upon such matters. The religious part of their education they receive from their parents, and from their clergy, at the right time, and in the right place.

If we could only secure a general assessment for education in this country, and distribute that money by and through commissioners, independently of local influence, making the teachers responsible to the government commissioners, there then might be some hope of the object being gained. But this cannot be done until we make up our minds to part with, or rather to explode, the vexatious *quæstio* of denominational teaching in our schools. Then the education of the people would be a comparatively easy thing. People, by having their understanding enlightened, would be better able to judge of the force of arguments presented to them; and instead of being filled with vulgar, ignorant prejudices, they would be in a condition to form an opinion becoming reasonable beings upon subjects of vital importance. Truth loves light, and so a door would be opened for its reception; and the end would be the gathering the wanderers into the fold of Christ's Church. S. A. C.

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH.

On Wednesday, the Bishop of the Diocese held a Confirmation in St. George's Church in this city, when 35 Candidates were presented by the Rector. It was a solemn and affecting sight, the young gathered together from the various families in the Parish, in one solemn group, prepared not only to renew the Baptismal Covenant, but testify their faith and love to their Saviour.

The Church was filled with an attentive congregation, and the Bishop was particularly solemn and earnest in

his Address to the Candidates. Many hearts were lifted up in devout aspiration to God for the descent of the Holy Ghost upon these young members of our Church, that they may continue God's dear children for ever, and daily increase in the Holy Spirit more and more until they come to his heavenly Kingdom.

To the Rector individually it was one of deep and affecting interest, as the largest proportion of those confirmed had been baptized by himself, trained up in the Sabbath School, and prepared for the holy Rite, under his own immediate course of instruction.

May God confirm their good resolutions, and so strengthen their pious desires, that they may be sincere and blameless and without fault in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ.—Communion by the Rector of St. George's.

News Department.

From Papers by Steamor Arabia, March 1.

ENGLAND.

Last night's *Gazette* announces that the Queen has been pleased to order a *congé d'lire* to pass the Great Seal, empowering the Dean and Chapter, of the Cathedral Church of Carlisle to elect a Bishop of that see, the same being void by the death of Dr. Hugh Percy, late Bishop thereof; and Her Majesty has also been pleased to recommend the Hon. and Rev. Henry Montague Villiers, M. A., to be elected by the said Dean and Chapter, Bishop of the said see of Carlisle.

To quicken our desire for peace, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been at the pains to calculate the whole pecuniary cost of the war. Forty-three millions and upwards he makes it, of which twenty-eight millions have been added to the National Debt. But Mr Gladstone's correction is just; this is only what our armaments have already cost us in hard cash, taking into account, as we must, unascertained and prospective charges, the total cannot be less than half as much again. Meanwhile, Sir G. Lewis wants money. The £5,000,000 now borrowed is to clear off the deficiency of the current financial year ending in April, the next being left to take care of itself. In the expectation of peace it has been obtained cheap, at little more than 1 per cent. below the current price of Consols; the next loan, if that expectation should be realised, will cost less—if not, much more.

It has been announced that an advanced squadron will proceed to the Baltic forthwith, comprising her Majesty's ships, *Invincible*, 51, Captain Warron; *Euryalus*, 51, Captain Ramsay; *Pygades*, 21, Captain D'Eyncourt (screw-vessel); the *Dragon*, 6, paddle-frigate, Captain Stewart; and the *Falcon*, screw-sloop, 17, Commander Pollen. They will be under the orders of Captain Watson, the senior Captain, and will probably start from the Downs for Kiel, if the Belts be open. They will await further orders from the Admiralty at Kiel, and the blockade will depend upon two progress and tone of the negotiations.

By the list of Admiralty appointments it will be seen that Captain Sir R. McClure, the discoverer of the North-west Passage, has taken the command of the *Exe*, screw corvette of twenty-one guns.

A circular order has been issued to the navy, stating that "it is their lordships' desire that officers of the navy should not wear beards or moustaches on board her Majesty's ships. By the regulations of the service, men are expected to be properly shaved, and it is essential that a good example on this point should be set by their officers."

In a communication addressed to the *Cork Examiner* the hon. member for Dungarvan states that the Duke of Norfolk "was restored on his death bed and in his last moments, to that fold which he scandalised by his temporary apostasy." And it is further stated that, from the Rev. Mr. Tierney, the Catholic pastor of Arundel, the Duke received the sacrament of Extreme Unction, in the presence of the Earl of Surrey and Lord Edward Howard. [A correspondent of the *Record* asserts that Dr. Cammenag was spiritual advisor to his grace, and that "he died holding fast to the faith of his adoption—Protestant Christianity."]

The Rev. J. Bize, R. A., for many years pastor of the Baptist Church, in Chipping Norton, has followed the example of the Rev. Mr. Bryant, Baptist Minister, Oxford, and the Rev. H. Davies, of Legnington, and joined the Episcopal Church.—*Oxford Chronicle*.

The War-office having just announced its intention of bearing the whole expense of the chaplains to be hereafter sent to the seat of war, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel is relieved from the responsibility of making any further appointments.

Sergeant Brodie, late of Canterbury barracks, has been appointed by the Secretary for War to be Inspecting Forman of Saddlery at Wexham-Beck. He is said always to have shown himself skilful in anything

to do with horse equipment, having been regimental saddler to several regiments. In conferring the appointment, Lord Palmerston is said to have intimated to the sergeant that "he did not consider him as having left the service with any stain upon his character."

Editorial Miscellany.

—We have perused a venomous article in the *Morning Chronicle* of to day, signed "A Churchman," and have only time at present to notice an allegation in it that more especially concerns this Paper. The *Church Times* is therein represented as the Bishop's organ. This is a calumny that was first started in Bishop Inglis' time, and we believe for a base purpose. The *Church Times* is only recognized by the Bishop as the official organ of the Church in the Diocese, and if sometimes its music is not over pleasant in the ears of a clique, it is no more than any party may expect, whose course is diametrically opposed to the Church's best interests. The base reflection upon Bishop Binney contained in the article, upon no other evidence than what the writer conceives to be in his own vile mind, the contents of the documents, is an evidence of what the Church generally may expect from such characters, if not stopped in their wickedness. For ourselves, we trust that the Church at large will uphold the Bishop's hands in whatever he has done or may yet do that approves itself to the general judgment for the good of the Church; and although we have not seen the documents, we learn from those who have, that the alterations desired in the Patent were chiefly formal, and that there has not been the shadow of an attempt to get any Church property whatever into the Bishop's possession. The papers have been seen by several of the leading Churchmen, but as the correspondence is incomplete, it was agreed that no further steps should be taken until the draft of the proposed Patent is sent out to His Excellency, when Churchmen will have an opportunity of giving an opinion upon it before it is returned to the Colonial Office to be completed. Moreover, we have confidence enough in the Bishop, from what he has already done, to believe that his future course will be dictated by the interests of the Church and not his own, in all things which concern her prosperity.—*Last Saturday's Church Times*.

AN APPEAL
ON BEHALF OF
THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

THE National School was established in the year 1816, and has been in efficient operation since that period. It has afforded gratuitous instruction to Hundreds of the children of the Poor, both boys and girls; and there are many, now occupying honourable and useful stations in life, who have received their education in no other school but this.

The ability and efficiency of the Teachers, in both departments, have been admitted by all, who have ever visited the Institution, or have been present at the examinations held there. There are now in daily attendance, at the Boys' School seventy-four free scholars, and sixty paid scholars; in the Girls' school, thirty free scholars, and forty paid scholars: total—Two hundred and four.

Children of all denominations are received into the School, and although its religious instruction is conformable to the principles and usages of the Church of England, these are not forced upon the pupils against the wishes of their Parents or Guardians.

The Salaries of the teachers, and all other expenses, have been defrayed by means of voluntary subscriptions, aided by a small allowance from the Provincial Funds, and from the tuition fees; which last item, however, forms but a small amount, as the fees vary from five shillings, to twenty five shillings per annum, according to the ability of the parents or guardians to pay; and also from the circumstance, that the majority of the Children, are Free scholars.

The Building, which was erected by private subscription and a donation from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, has become in a very dilapidated state, and will soon be unfit for use, and unless some strenuous exertions are made, to raise the necessary funds for its thorough repair, the School will have to be closed.

To avert this unhappy occurrence, an appeal is now made by the Provisional Committee to the public at large, and the Parishioners of St. Paul's in particular, for pecuniary aid, on behalf of this useful and truly charitable Institution. An annual subscription of twenty shillings, entitles the party giving it to nominate one Free scholar, and an additional Free scholar for every additional Twenty shillings subscribed. As a large sum would be required to repair the Building, the Committee intend to solicit donations and subscriptions, and also propose to hold a FANCY FAIR, about the first of August next, at Hillside, the property of the President of the Society, situated on the shores of the North West Arm, and trust that the Ladies, who are ever first in works of charity and benevolence, will kindly lend their valuable aid and assistance, in forwarding the object they have in view. Thus supported the Committee feel confident that the appeal now made will not be in vain, and that an Educational Institution of so much importance raised by the gratuitous subscriptions of others, will not be allowed to fall through, from the sympathy and interference of the residents of the city, in the present day.

HENRY PRYOR, President.
BENJAMIN SALTER, Treasurer.
WILLIAM T. TOWNSEND,
WILLIAM MISTLETON,
JOHN SILVER, Secretary.
EDWARD J. LORRY,
MAURICE McLEOD, &c.

Committee

Halifax, March, 8, 1856.