

panied by such explanations as were suited to the capacity of the children. From 1871 to the present time, in every department of each school, this rule had been carried out; texts of Scripture had been committed to memory, and usually simple hymns were sung, and prayer offered with the children by the responsible teacher. The attendance was voluntary, but practically universal; for in 680 departments, with 188,000 in average attendance, not one child in 4,000 (exclusive of Jews) had been withdrawn, and no single complaint had been made by any parent. The gross number of children in Standards i, ii, iii, examined last year, was 70,063; in iv, v, vi, it was 10,453, while the pupil-teachers numbered 1,546. This year the numbers had risen to 81,000, to 24,000, and 2,000 respectively; thus giving a total of 105,000, as against 82,000 in the preceding year. This examination had been based upon a syllabus of instruction issued by the Board, and had been carried out by the Board's own inspectors. He would not attempt to describe the plan adopted; but whether by the *viva voce* examination of the younger children, or the written papers of those in the upper standards, the results fully supported the conclusion that the regulations were honestly complied with. This year, he would add, there was great improvement in three particulars—in the spelling, the relevancy of the answers, and the sound moral tone pervading the whole. No part of all their work afforded such solid satisfaction, and thus it was that parents and teachers took increasing interest in this annual celebration. The prizes were then distributed, and at the close of the concert the children and the teachers dispersed themselves over the Palace grounds until the close of the day."