

Danish government are, by experience, convinced of its beneficial operation; and have given the most striking proofs of this conviction, by not only supporting the former establishment, but by confirming and increasing it. In the month of October of the year one thousand eight hundred and six, a new law was promulgated, which rendered the Danish schools more useful, and more efficacious, than they could ever have formerly been. By this law, the Island of Zealand, the most populous part of the kingdom, is divided into districts so small, that all the children resident in each, may, without inconvenience, attend the school which is established in it: A decent income and house are provided for the Teachers: All parents are compelled to send their children to school, as soon as they reach the age of seven: Instruction is provided in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Religion: None are allowed to leave school, till they understand these branches: And those who have capacity and inclination, are instructed in the history, and geography of their country.*

I do not quote this law, as a model to be imitated in all respects; for, surely, the compulsory part of it, might have been omitted. But I quote it as an experimental proof of the expediency of general instruction. In reality, what stronger proof of this expediency, can we desire, than to find it attested by the conviction, not only of travellers who may occasionally visit that country; not only of the most intelligent observers resident in it; but of the very persons

* Monthly Magazine for June 1807, page 473.