

pupil teachers; number of scholars on roll, 4,045,642; average attendance, 2,863,535. The grant from Government was £2,614,883. Total expenditure, £5,336,978.

#### SCOTLAND.

Though something had been done for the education of the people in Scotland prior to 1561, even to the extent of compelling barons and the more substantial yeomanry to send their eldest sons and heirs from the ages of six to nine to school till competently founded in Latin, and to a school of arts and law for three years longer, in order that justice might be better administered throughout the kingdom, yet it was only when the renowned John Knox and his associates were so far successful as to induce the Parliament to make a memorable provision for public education, that the real beginning of an effective and comprehensive system of popular education was made. It is chiefly among the clergy that we find anything like proficiency in literature and the arts in Scotland, as in other countries of Europe, to nearly the end of the sixteenth century; and this fact accounts for the education of the people being put under their management and control. At the date above referred to (1551) the Scottish Parliament, at the instance of the Reformers, passed an Act containing the enlightened and wise provision that schools were to be established in every parish, colleges (grammar schools) in every notable town, and universities in cities. There were universities already at St. Andrews, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. The troublous state of the country then and for some time after made this statute almost a dead letter. The next decided step in advance was taken in the reign of Charles I., 1642, when an Act was passed ordaining that Presbyteries should see that

every parish had a school where children were to be "bred in writing, reading, and the grounds of religion." And finally, in 1803, another Act was passed dealing with salaries (a fixed minimum salary was an integral part of the system), depriving schoolmasters of the right of appeal to the superior courts, ordering that each master should have a house (not more than two rooms), and placing the schools and masters under the entire management of the Presbyteries, and of those heritors whose yearly rental exceeded £100. Previous to this all heritors had a voice in the management of the schools.

Such in its essential features was the famous parish-school system of Scotland, of which one writer says, that "it laid the foundation of Scotland's proudest distinction, and proved the great source of her subsequent prosperity." And it is owing, not indeed solely, but principally, to the national system of education that, as Lord Macaulay remarks, "in spite of the barrenness of her soil and the severity of her climate, has made such progress in agriculture, in manufactures, in commerce, in letters, in all that constitutes civilization, as the Old World has never seen equalled, and as the New World has scarcely seen surpassed."

#### IRELAND.

Against the several Acts passed relating to the education of the people of Ireland, beginning with 28 Henry VIII., the accusation has been made and persistently maintained by the Roman Catholic Church, that their scope and aim was to withdraw the school children from the Romish Church, and induce them to become members and supporters of the Protestant Churches. It seems there were good grounds for this charge, as we have in the report of the Parliamentary Committee, 1812, this signifi-