

Board men oppose the idea for fear of the anathemas of the taxpayer. All the prejudices that free education would have to encounter are expressed by Lord Stanley of Alderley, in his address to the electors of the United Kingdom. He urges them to refuse their votes for candidates in favor of free education, on the ground that "it is illiberal, foolish, extravagant, pauperizing, demoralizing, unnecessary, and irreligious." Meanwhile, progressive spirits of all parties are uniting in a determined stand for its introduction.

The complaints that have been brought against the fee system in England are the same as those we meet with in the early school history of our own states. The collection and entry imposes much labor upon teachers, consumes valuable time, and interferes in many ways with the school routine. Heavy expenses are incurred in the endeavor to force shiftless parents to provide the fee, and meantime their children swell the column of irregular attendants. The remission of fees in the case of parents whose poverty is proven places the pauper's stamp upon them. Different scales of fees, and their remission for cause, tend also to perpetuate and multiply class distinctions. All of these objections are sustained by the facts; but it will be for the commission to decide whether they are not over-balanced by moral and economic considerations. The former are gradually giving place in the argument to the latter, which have the advantage of accurate representation. As yet the figures have been only partially reported, but in that imperfect state are worth attention.

In presenting the budget for 1885-86, Mr. Stanhope gave the following details for the previous year: The government grant amounted to £2,846,000; voluntary contributions, £734,000; school pence including fees paid by guardians, £1,734,000; the rates £915,000; endowments and all other sources, £222,000; total, England and Wales, £6,451,000. This was current expenses, exclusive of building, enlarging and improving school property. The fees paid by the Poor Guardians amounted to £40,934, leaving £1,693,180 as the contribution from parents. From what source shall this sum be derived, if the fee is surrendered?

Mr. Jonathan Taylor, a member of the Sheffield Board, estimated that if the fees were abolished in all Board and voluntary schools, and the deficit thus caused charged to the rates, it would