

THE PARISH SCHOOL ADVOCATE

And Family Instructor,

FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

EDITED BY - - - ALEXANDER MUNRO,
Bay Verte, New-Brunswick.

All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, POST PAID.

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National System of Education, and Social Super- vision.

ENGLAND.—Each of the three great sub-divisions of Great Britain, England, Scotland, and Ireland, have their separate educational system, each on distinctive principles. In England, the principle agencies employed in working out the plan are—the Church of England, the British and Foreign Society, the Wesleyans, the Roman Catholics, and the Congregationalists. Each of these bodies have Normal Schools connected with their educational operations, where practical instruction, and training, is given to those desirous of teaching.

The whole is under a Council of Public Instruction, appointed by Her Majesty; large annual appropriations in aid of the various agencies employed in the education of the people, are made by the Government. There are also a large number of private day schools, sabbath schools, and evening schools, in active and useful operation. The annual expenditure for educational purposes in Great Britain, amounts to nearly £663,000 sterling; of this sum, £157,000 is devoted to the erection and endowment

of school houses; the various denominations and societies expend about £70,000 per annum; and £40,000 is devoted to the payment of teachers. Still, notwithstanding all the agencies, denominational, public and private that are bro't to bear upon the matter, the quantity of elementary instruction is very limited; the number of children destitute of education in England and Wales exceeds 4,000,000; and those receiving education at school, only number *one in ten* of the entire population; while in some of the States of America, where the free school system is in operation, *one in four* of the population are receiving the benefits of education. The annual grant contemplates the education of 800,000 children by the State. The subject of national education has recently engaged the attention of the British Parliament, when a resolution was passed authorizing "a Commission to enquire into the present state of popular education in England, and to consider and report what measures, if any, are required for the extension of sound and cheap edu-