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EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

In connection with the article on Popular Education in England, which we inserted in the last number of this Journal, we now insert several extracts from a paper in the *North British Review* for May, on Education in Scotland.

“The earliest schools established in Scotland were the burgh schools. Of these, a considerable number are known to have been in existence in the 15th century, although their early history can hardly be traced. ‘Long before the Reformation, all the principal towns had grammar-schools, in which the Latin language was taught. They had also “lecture schools,” as they were called, in which children were instructed to read the vernacular language. Among these, we find a grammar school in Glasgow in the 15th century, and the High School of Edinburgh in operation very early in the 16th century. The earliest Scottish legislation on the subject of education appears in an Act of James the Fourth (1494, c. 54), which is so brief, and affords so interesting a glimpse into the condition of Scotland only fifteen years after the invention of printing, that it may be worth while to quote it.

“‘Item, It is statute and ordained through all the Realme that all Barronnes and Freeholders that are of substance put their eldest sonnes and aires to the schules fra they be sex or nine zeires of age, and till remain at the Grammar Schules quhill they be competentlie founded and have perfect *Latine*. And thereafter to remaine three zeires at the schules of art and jure, swa that they may have knowledge and understanding of the Lawes: throw the quhilks justice may remaine universally throw

all the Realme: Swa that they that are Schireffes or Judges Ordinares under the King's Hienesse may have knowledge to doe justice, that the puir people sulde have no neede to seeke our Sovereine Lordis principal Auditor for ilk small injurie: And quhat Barronne or Freeholder of substance that haldis not his son at the schules as said is, havand na laichful essoinzie, but failzie herein, fra knowledge may be gotten thereof, he sall pay to the King the summe of twentie pound.’

“It was the Reformation that gave birth to popular education in Scotland; and the debt which is due to Knox, on account of his labours on this behalf, can hardly be overstated. The comprehensive scheme of education, embraced in the First Book of Discipline, included a proposal ‘that every several kirk have one schoolmaster appointed;’ and ‘that in every notable town there should be erected a college, in which the arts, at least Logic and Rhetoric, together with the tongues, be read by sufficient masters;’—an extent of provision for the educational wants of the community which has not been yet attained. We do not know any way in which the several Reformed Churches of Scotland, which have lately been celebrating the Tri-centenary of the Reformation, might more worthily combine in practically carrying out the work of the Reformers, than in endeavouring to secure an educational provision such as they contemplated, adapted to the present state of the country.

“The parochial schools, like the burgh schools, did not owe their origin to any legislative enactments. They were in many instances established, through the unceasing efforts of the Reformed clergy, by the parishioners, under a system of voluntary or ecclesiastical assessment. From the Record of the northern part of the diocese of St. Andrews, containing a report of a visitation of parishes in the years 1611 and 1613, it appears that the parishes which had schools were double in number to those which had them not. The earliest legal provision for parish schools appears in an Act of the Privy Council, following upon a letter from the King, and dated 10th December, 1616. It directs that a school be established in every parish where the means of maintaining one existed, with a view to the instruction of all the youth, and especially to the expulsion of the Irish language, one of the principal causes of ‘barbaritie and incivilitie.’ This Act of Council was ratified by Parliament A.D. 1633; and power given to the Bishop, and heritors, and parishioners, to assess the parish for the support of the schools.