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TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT MACMURCHY'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

FOR some years I have been observing the objections made in reference to the administration of the school laws in English-speaking communities, as well as the changes and modifications effected, to secure a more efficient and harmonious working of the various school systems in these different countries. The purpose was two-fold: To ascertain the opinions of the practical educators of each country as to the efficiency of the school laws, and to discover in how far their administration was adequate to supply the educational wants of these widely separated nationalities. Thus should I, I thought, be enabled to aid in perfecting our own school system, so that my experience of it, both as regards its excellences and defects, might be enlarged and corrected by that of other labourers in the same field. For comparison the following statistics are given:—

Scotland (1881).—Number of schools, 3,074, inspected; number of certificated teachers, 5,544, with a large number of pupil-teachers; number of scholars on the roll, 545,982; number in average attendance, 406,966. The grant from Government amounted to £454,997. Total expenditure, £862,774.

Ireland (1880).—Number of schools, 7,590; number of certificated elementary teachers, 10,674; number of scholars on the roll, 1,083,020; average attendance, 468,557; divided according to religious persuasion, 79 per cent. belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, 9.4 to the Episcopal, 10.7 to the Presbyterian, and 9 to other churches. The grant from Government was £597,481. Total expenditure, £737,631.

England and Wales (1881).—Number of schools, 18,062, inspected; number of certificated teachers, 33,562, with a large number of assistants and