

— **ANNUAL REPORT ON ENGLISH EDUCATION.**—The Committee of the Privy Council have issued the report of their proceedings in 1861, of which the *Times* of this morning gives the following summary:—In the course of the year the number of schools, or departments of schools, under separate teachers, which were inspected, increased by 497, the number of children by 65,758, of pupil teachers by 742, of certificated teachers by 987; of students in training for teachers 43; new school accommodation was created for 47,103 children. The 60 inspectors visited 10,900 daily schools, or departments of schools, and found present in them 1,028,890 children (five boys to four girls,) 8,069 certificated teachers, and 15,498 apprentices. The inspectors also visited 39 training colleges for teachers, occupied by 2,869 students, and examined these and 2,782 candidates; besides visiting 442 schools for pauper children, containing 30,000 inmates, and 58 ragged or industrial schools, containing 4,411 inmates. The Privy Council Committee notice that while making a certificated teacher a condition of annual grants, they have provided for the granting of certificates to younger and humbler classes of candidates for service in small schools, and that they are now engaged in revising the subjects wherein teachers are required to be examined. Teachers' certificates are not the monopoly of a class; they are not confined to former pupil-teachers or to students from normal schools, but any teachers whatever, who have obtained two favourable reports by the inspector upon their schools, may be presented by their employers as candidates. The Committee express their hope that by the encouragement they have given to the instruction of infants, as a foundation, and to the instruction of evening scholars, as a continuance of the elementary day-school, a road has been marked out for the solid and suitable education of the classes who support themselves in independence by manual labour. This, indeed, is not the whole of the work to be done; but the education of the pauper class, on the one hand, and of the emigrant or criminal class, on the other, are now rigidly dealt with by legislation as separate parts of the question; and with, by way of supplement, the Missionary action of Sunday-schools and ragged-schools, the Committee feel justified in expressing a confident hope that no part of the great field of education for the poor remains unknown or uncared for, and that in the midst of many difficulties and more differences progress is being everywhere made. A subsidiary measure of great importance consists in the increased powers now vested in the Charity Commissioners for dealing, by a cheap and expeditious process, with small endowments; and the responsibility thrown by recent measures upon the local managers of schools is likely to direct their attention to their resources derivable from an improved application of existing endowments.

— **BRITISH MILITARY EDUCATION.**—The report of the Council of Military Education for 1861 has been published. It appears that for more than 38 per cent. of the men in the ranks the most elementary education is required; 19 per cent. can neither read nor write; and above 19 per cent. can only read but not write. 7.44 per cent. have a superior degree of education; the remaining 54 per cent. can read and write. The great hindrance is an irregularity of attendance. Attendance of soldiers at school is no part of military discipline, and cannot be legally required. The Council submits that there would be no hardship in its being made obligatory upon every recruit to learn to read and write before he is dismissed to duty, and becomes less able to give regular attendance at school. School fees for adults have been already abolished, except for the more advanced classes; but to retain fees for these is a tax upon progress, and as it is found that the men generally leave school as soon as they are called upon to pay, and only return in order to qualify for promotion, the utmost received is not considerable, and the Council are of opinion that the sacrifice of the fees would be more than compensated by the advantage which the service would derive from having in its ranks a large number of men possessed of a respectable degree of education. In the Royal Artillery and the Foot Guards education had received due attention of late, and the result has been that the proportion of men unable to read and write has been reduced nearly one-half since 1858—in the Artillery from 40 per cent. to 25, and in the Foot Guards from 20 per cent. to 11. Where the officer in command affords to the school his countenance and support, the result is that the educational system attains its full development, non-commissioned officers and men alike profit by it, and a taste is acquired for other pleasures than those of the public-house. The Council report that the machinery for education is good and ample, and they are confident that the extension of elementary education among the men will be carried far beyond the present unsatisfactory limits as soon as the one great impediment which now exists, namely, the irregu-

larity of the attendance, shall be wholly or even partially removed. This report, the first since the transfer of the supervision of the schools of the army from an Inspector-General to the Council, is signed by Lieutenant-General Knollys, Major-General Portlock, Canon Mosely, and Colonel Elwyn and Addison.—*London Educational Times.*

— **RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN ARMY SCHOOLS.**—The Secretary of State for War has caused to be issued an amended series of instructions to be observed by army schoolmasters, as follows:—The schoolmaster is to open the school at nine a.m., with the Lord's Prayer, with or without the addition of one or more collects from the Book of Common Prayer, or with one of the forms which may be expressly authorized for this purpose. He is to proceed to give a collective Bible lesson, or to read and explain a short passage of Holy Scripture taken from the authorised or the Douay version. The attendance of adults at this instruction will be entirely voluntary. The parents of children who are not of the same religious persuasion as the schoolmaster, will be at liberty to send such children to school at the hour for commencing general instruction, viz., 9.30 a.m. . . . On two days in each week an hour will be set apart for specific religious instruction under clerical direction. . . . No secular instruction, whether literary or industrial, is to be carried on in the same room during its employment for the purpose of religious instruction; and no religious instruction is to be given by the chaplain or other clergyman except at times fixed by the commanding officer, or on Sundays.

— **UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.**—The Earl of Rosse is to be the Chancellor of the University of Dublin, in the room of the late Lord Primate. The Lord Justice of Appeal has gracefully retired, that one of the greatest living ornaments of science may be elected without opposition.

— **MIDDLE-CLASS EXAMINATIONS IN IRELAND.**—The Queen's University in Ireland is following the example of Oxford and Cambridge, in instituting middle-class examinations for candidates who are not members of the University. The first of these examinations were held simultaneously in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and Galway.

— **UNIVERSITIES IN ITALY.**—There are twenty Universities in the Italian Kingdom as at present established. The kingdom of Sardinia Proper contains three, viz., at Turin, Genoa, and Cagliari; Lombardy one, at Pavia; the Emilian Provinces four, Bologna, Ferrara, Modena, and Parma; the Marches three, Camerino, Macerata, and Urbino; Tuscany three, Florence, Pisa, and Sienna; Umbria one, Perugia; the Neapolitan Provinces one, Naples; Sicily three, Catania, Messina, and Palermo. Three of these Universities are free, viz., Camerino, Ferrara, and Perugia; those of Macerata and Urbino receive a small endowment from the State. Those of Bologna, Modena, Parma, Catania, Messina, and Palermo have large endowments of their own. The number of educational establishments of the highest class in the Italian kingdom, counting six Schools of Science established since the "Liberation," amounts to twenty-six.

— **AUSTRIAN UNIVERSITIES.**—An Austrian nobleman, Baron de Silberstein, who has just died at Vienna, has by will bequeathed 200,000 florins to each of the Universities of Vienna and Prague, to be employed in assisting poor students.

— **THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITIES.**—We (says the *N. Y. Observer*) noticed last year the violent measures of the Russian Government in closing the University and imprisoning some of the students. Letters from St. Petersburg to the 15th of October, report upon the still unsettled state of affairs. The soldiers were out on the 14th, and were actively engaged in driving the people and students from the ground between the University and the Academy of Fine Arts. The secret police tried to seduce the students to attend a meeting called by the spies themselves but had failed, the students having even postponed a meeting called by themselves. It is reported that the young gentlemen are behaving very well. There were still about seventy in the fortress. The University is now not only shut, but dissolved. An order is placarded all over St. Petersburg announcing the dissolution, and directing all who wish to become students at the University, as it is about to be reconstituted in accordance with the regulations lately issued, to send in petitions to that effect before Saturday. A letter from St. Petersburg, dated 25th October, says:—Last Wednesday the gates of the University were re-opened under the protection of two squadrons of gendarmes and a company of Cossacks. On Thursday a strong manifestation was made. The police doubtless expected it, as the number of corps had been increased. Some refractory students were arrested in the halls of the University, which they had entered without the permission of the authorities. About 200 others were driven into