

Province, or State, or Nation, as such? We have no hesitation in avowing our calm and deliberate conviction on this point, and declaring that it is the special function of the Province or State, as such, to discharge this duty, this high privilege; that it is its first business to see that every school-going child within its border is actually receiving education; and that not merely on the ground of high principle or of even-handed justice, or even of self-interest, but on the ground of sheer necessity; that is, that nothing short of a National System, broad and deep, can cope with the difficulties of the case, can meet the demands for a universal, popular education, can provide for the thorough education of all the young within its borders. Societies, whose object is the improvement of Education, both in point of quantity and quality, have unquestionably done much for the accomplishment of the one and the other of these objects. And there are not, perhaps, any sources to which the British Colonies are more indebted for the furtherance of their educational interests than the British and Foreign School Society, and the Church and School Colonial Society. But to suppose that the efforts of these, and many similarly organized and well directed Educational Societies, can supply the adequate means for pervading any country with a thoroughly sound and universal education, is altogether utopian. But why may not the different sections of the Christian Church overtake the work? Whilst we are free to admit that the interest which the Christian Church has all along taken in the cause of the education of the rising generation, constitutes one of the brightest jewels in her crown, it is altogether another question, Has she in any one instance done the work? Have we, then, any touchstone to enable us to judge of her capabilities in this respect, have we any criterion to conduct us to a fair and honest decision in the matter, as to whether the Church, with all her high born energies, with all her unquenchable zeal, and with all her vast resources and appliances, can really meet a nation's wants in educational matters? We think we have, and that in no less a case than England itself. England, as may be known to many of our readers, never possessed a National System of Education. Scotland, at this moment, has one, though it is very partial and limited in its extent, because it is destitute of any self-propagating power. Ireland, too, has had for the last thirty years a National System. But there is no such thing in England. During the last twenty years, however, the various denominations of the Christian Church, largely supplemented by Grants from the Public Treasury, have unitedly put forth a tremendous and vigorously sustained effort with the view of providing a National Education. It would take volumes even to present a bare enumeration of the results of this effort. Let the merest compend suffice. The Congregationalist body,—a considerable portion of which body repudiates all Governmental aid—has erected a large Training Institution at Homerton at the cost of £12,000, whose yearly outlay for training pupil-teachers is £1000. The number of teachers sent out by its Educational Board is about 300. The Roman Catholics have three Normal Institutions, one at Hammersmith, having accommodation for 50 students and built at a cost of £13,530, of which sum Government paid £3,900; the remainder, £9,630, was raised by subscription. One at St Leonard's-on-Sea, having accommodation for 50 students, and another at Liverpool, for 80 students, were erected by the generosity of an educational community belonging to that body. Besides these Normal In-

stitutions, the Roman Catholics have about 400 schools in England and Scotland under Government inspection, about 82 male and 88 female certificated teachers, 82 male and 3 female assistants, 207 male and 390 female pupil-teachers, and 2 Roman Catholic Inspectors. The educational organization of the Wesleyans is complete. They have a princely Normal Institution in the very centre of Westminster, London, covering an area of about three acres and erected at the expense of £40,000. They supply board and education to 100 students yearly—sixty males and forty females—and find employment for all. They have undertaken to build 700 schools in seven years, and they are doing it. "By last report," says Frazer on the State of our Educational Resources, "they have created, during last year alone, additional accommodation for 6,453 scholars; and have erected, besides extensions and improvements, no fewer than nineteen new school buildings, and sixteen teachers' houses, at a cost of upwards of £29,000.—Their schools are constructed with a liberal regard to the health of the children, and are usually surrounded by playgrounds, intended not more for physical exercise than for the development of mental tendencies and for moral culture.—They are turning most advantageously to account the assistance given through Privy Council Grants; and are setting before the country a specimen of vigorous and completely organized denominational action." But all these efforts, however great and praiseworthy, are never for one moment to be compared with those put forth by the Church of England, with all her influence and resources. "Under the cognizance and direction of the Church of England," we again quote from Frazer's pamphlet, "there are many Societies at work, representing, in their fragmentary and conflicting sections, manifold ecclesiastical and other opinions, but all having one aim—the education of the neglected in some shape or other—and all at the same time under the close and directive control of the Committee of Council of Education."

"The general outline of the educational work of the Church of England, through Normal Schools alone, is comprehensive and imposing. There are no fewer than 25 Training Colleges in active operation—14 for males and 11 for females.—In the colleges for males, at last inspection, there were 632; of these, 377 were in the first year of residence, 221 in their second, and 34 in their third; 428 obtained places in the class list at Christmas, 1856. In the colleges for female teachers, having accommodation for 783, there were in attendance about 600. Of these, 447 had completed their first year at last examination. In the competition 236 obtained class places, 137 were placed on the schedule, and 74 failed. When the Institutions are full, and the students remain generally two years, the annual supply will be 400. Last year 355 were sent forth.

The expenditure for all the male Training Colleges was £32,714, and the total income about £35,468; of which, £16,481 was paid in Privy Council Grants; £2,824 by the students, and £15,163 by the managers and subscribers.—The total current expenditure for 716 students in the female colleges was £22,812. To meet this, last year, there was paid in Privy Council Grants, £9,518; by students or private patrons, £7,289; and by subscriptions, grants from boards, &c., £6,346. The whole outlay in the maintenance of the Normal Colleges, apart from Government assistance, was met by £11,113 on the part of the students and their patrons, and by £21,509 on the part of subscribers. This outlay, it must