

not under my supervision, at 500, the total provided with instruction will approximate to 3,500. Guided by the census returns of 1848, and the probable ratio of increase since, the total number of children within the educational age, in Queen's county, may be estimated at 4,500, leaving a thousand, or nearly a third, who do not attend school. In regard to free schools the Visitor remarks:—As the whole system will in all probability shortly experience a careful revision, the question of the conversion of our district schools, into free schools, which has of late excited some attention, will not be overlooked. The district schools throughout a majority of the towns in Canada, are at the present moment free: property is assessed for their support, and one of the reasons assigned for such taxation, is, that a well instructed people afford greater security to the rights of property. The Editor of the *Journal of Education*, published in that province, a periodical which ought to be in the hands of every instructor of youth, makes the following observations with reference to this question:—"We look with confidence to the near approach of that day—and a glorious day it will be—when every common school in this province will be as free to every child in the land, as the water we drink, and the air we breathe," an aspiration which will find an echo in the breast of every person capable of appreciating the blessings of an enlightened education. Connected with the improvement of our educational system, it may not be out of place to advert to the fact, that there appears a growing interest on the part of the people, in the advancement of an interest mainly created by agricultural science, the operations of the Royal agricultural society, and by their able and useful publications. In order that these efforts should become a source of increased benefit to farmers, they should themselves acquire a knowledge of the elementary principles of husbandry upon which the suggestions they might receive, would be based: this may be done most effectually through the teachers of the district schools, in the way recently recommended by that society. The Board of Education for Upper Canada has adopted this method of diffusing elementary agricultural instruction throughout that country.

JAMAICA.

Public Education in Jamaica.—From a letter written by the Rev. W. H. Landon, late Superintendent of schools in the county of Oxford, which appeared in the *Montreal Witness* of the 19th ult., we select the following remarks regarding the system of education at present in operation at Jamaica:—"The system of instruction pursued, I apprehend, is defective. There are a good many schools in operation, and a large number of the young are enjoying the benefit such as it is; but a little learning—bare literary attainment, seems to be proposed as the end of education, and not the means of it. Words and formularies are taught as though it was for their own sake, and not as the vehicles of thought and knowledge. Hence, the best educated youths, with here and there an exception, are as unintellectual, as stupid, and as gross as those who have no education at all."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Items.—The Queen has placed New College, London, in connexion with the University of London.—The scheme for turning the Exhibition to educational purposes, progresses very favourably, and the University of Oxford has lent its support to the movement.—Sir J. Dodson and the Attorney and Solicitor-General have given it as their opinion that the university commission is "not in any respect illegal or unconstitutional."—The Earl of Belfast has expressed himself favourable to the establishment of libraries for the use of the industrial classes, and has promised to deliver a course of lectures in aid thereof.—In Parliament, a resolution declaring the expediency of promoting the education of the people in England and Wales, by the establishment of free schools for secular instruction, to be supported by local rates and managed by committees, elected specially for that purpose by the rate-payers, after much discussion was defeated by a vote of 49 to 139.—In regard to Lord Melgund's bill for the exclusion of popular education in Scotland, the London correspondent of the *Colonist* writes:—"The noble mover's measure was intended to provide that certain public schools should be established, and supported by rate, in which religious and secular education should be entirely separated, so that children of all denominations might be taught together. Lord Melgund made a very forcible and able speech on behalf of his bill. He detailed, with great clearness and effect, the lamentable ignorance of the great mass of the lower orders—showed the inefficiency of the means at present existing for the purpose of instruction, and exhibited, with painful accuracy, the errors appertaining to the present system of education throughout the country. Clever and earnest, however, as was the noble lord's argument, he yet failed to convince the House of Commons that in endeavouring to extend education in Scotland, he ought not rather to enlarge the present system than propose a new one. Mr. F. Mackenzie, who led the opposition, demonstrated with great plainness and

power, that the feeling of Scotland generally was certainly against any departure from the principles which have so long and so beneficially prevailed in that country. Although a very talented speech was delivered by the Lord Advocate, and Lord John Russell, the House refused to read the bill a second time, by 137 against 124.—A great meeting of the 'National Society' took place on Wednesday last. The National Society is a great association of Church of England divines and laymen, for the purpose of affording pecuniary assistance to schools connected with the Anglican Church: and somehow or other the committee of council on education (i.e. the Government) has managed to get immense power into its hands over the funds of the institution, and dispenses them upon state, rather than upon church, principles. During the last four or five years the tractarian section of the society, has been striving very vigorously to disattach itself from this lay interference, and has agitated the society at its annual meetings very considerably upon the matter. On Wednesday another annual meeting took place, and the discussion was renewed with an acrimony which seemed out of character, when it is remembered that an archbishop was in the chair, and several members of the Episcopal bench took part in the proceedings, and that a considerable majority, both of speakers and auditory were clergymen. The result was that the tractarian party was utterly defeated, and that the Government will continue to be the almoner of the funds raised by the pious and charitable for the instruction of the untaught members of the community."

The British Educational Census of 1851.—The educational portion of the enquiry will extend itself to the whole machinery of secular or religious instruction, whether existing in the form of good literary institutions or schools. Of schools, the classification is somewhat numerous, embracing alike the "royal foundation" and the establishment for the ragged, the Sunday and the daily school, the public academy and the private, the classic and the commercial schools, whether held in prison or in workhouse; whether presided over by spinster, pedagogue, or dame; whether kept in order by discipline, moral, or application corporel, by French lessons and backboards or the birch. The master, mistress, or other superintendent of the school, will be required to state the name, date, and character of the establishment; the number, age, and description of the pupils; the branches of learning taught; the number and remuneration of the teachers; the dimensions of the rooms appropriated to teaching the religious denomination with which the school is connected, and the income and expenditure. In the case, however, of private establishments, no answer will be expected to such of the questions as refer to matters of finance, the object being simply to ascertain the number of persons undergoing any educational process, and the nature of that process.

Ragged School Union.—The annual meeting of this institution was held on Tuesday, the 20th May, in Exeter-hall. Lord R. Grosvenor occupied the chair. The honorary secretary read the report. It alluded to the rapid increase of the society since 1845. In that year there were 20 schools, 200 teachers, and 2,000 pupils; and the amount collected was £51. In 1846, there were 26 schools, 250 teachers, and 2,600 children; the amount collected, £320. In 1847, there were 44 schools, 450 teachers, and 4,700 children; amount collected, £637. In 1848, there were 62 schools, 822 voluntary teachers, and 80 paid teachers, and 7,000 children; sum collected, £696. In 1849, there were 82 schools, 929 voluntary, and 124 paid teachers, 9,000 children; sum collected, £3,632. In 1850, there were 95 schools, 1,392 voluntary, and 167 paid teachers, 10,900 children; the sum collected being £2,658. The decrease in funds was partly occasioned by the establishment of local ragged schools, not in connexion with the Union, and which had, to some extent, diverted the subscriptions from the society. During the year, 3 girls and 80 boys had been enabled to emigrate by the united effort of the union and local schools; 53 having gone to Australia, and 31 to America. This made the total number sent out under the auspices of the union, 307. The "Shoe-black Society," lately established in connexion with the union, employed 24 boys, whose average earnings were 8s. per week.

British and Foreign School Society.—The forty-sixth annual meeting of the supporters of this institution was held on Monday morning week, at the society's premises, Borough-road, Lord J. Russell in the chair. Among the gentlemen on the platform were Earl Fitzwilliam, Earl Waldegrave, Viscount Ebrington, M. P., Sir J. Boileau, the Right Hon. Fox Maule, M. P., Mr. Evans, M. P., Mr. Hindley, M. P., Dr. Lushington, the Rev. George Clayton, the Rev. Dr. Duff, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, of Canada, the Rev. Thomas Binney, Mr. S. Gurney, &c. Previous to the public meeting the pupils were examined in the various branches of education pursued in the schools, and acquitted themselves in a highly creditable manner. The room was densely crowded, several hundreds being refused admission from want of sufficient accommodation. The Secretary read the annual report. It stated the society to be in circumstances highly favourable to its prosperity and permanence. The annual subscriptions had greatly increased during the year, and the Model schools