

only prevented us from establishing schools in which the experiment might be fully tried, but have induced us to desist altogether from any further proceedings in that undertaking." p. 3.

The insurmountable difficulty referred to, was the arrangements of the book, the use of which formed so essential a part of the plan so recommended. They say, "until this preliminary step would be secured, it would have been obviously premature to appoint masters or provide school-houses. p. 5.

The Commissioners say :

"We beg leave to recal to your Excellency's recollection the particulars of a Minute of Conference held between our Board and the four Roman Catholic Archbishops on this subject, bearing date the eighth of January, 1825, and which, so far as relates to the works in question, was as follows :—

"In these suggestions, for uniting Protestant and Roman Catholic children in literary, and separating them only for religious instruction, Dr. Murray expressed his concurrence.

"The Commissioners then observed, that separate religious instruction should not commence until the difference of religious belief should make it impossible for instruction any longer to be received in common ; and they inquired whether it would be objected to, on the part of the Roman Catholic Clergy, that the more advanced of the Protestant and Roman Catholic children should at certain times, during school hours, read portions of the Holy Scriptures together, and in the same classes, but out of their respective versions, subject to proper regulations, and in the presence of their respective Protestant and Roman Catholic teachers, suggesting, at the same time, that opportunities might be afforded to the teachers, of each persuasion to explain to the children separately the portions so read ?

"Dr. Murray answered, that serious difficulties would exist in the way of such an arrangement, and, in lieu of it he proposed that the Holy Scriptures should be used only when the Roman Catholic children should be taken apart for the purpose of receiving religious instruction ; and he said that there could be no possible objection to the Roman Catholic children then reading out of the sacred volume itself the gospels and epistles of the week ; he added, that no objection would be made to a harmony of the gospels being used in the general education which the children should receive in common ; nor to a volume containing extracts from the Psalms, Proverbs, and Book of Ecclesiasticus, nor to a volume containing the history of the Creation, of the Deluge, of the Patriarchs, of Joseph, and of the deliverance of the Israelites, extracted from the Old Testament ; and that he was satisfied no difficulties in arranging the details of such works would arise on the part of the Roman Catholic Clergy.

"The Commissioners then stated, that they considered it of the utmost moment that no books or catechisms should be admitted, either in the course of the literary or religious instruction, containing matter calculated to excite contempt, hatred, or any uncharitable feeling, in any class, towards persons of a different religious persuasion.

"To this Dr. Murray cordially assented." p. 5, and First Report, p. 96.

Several plans were submitted, first to the Protestant Archbishops and Bishops, and then to the Roman Catholic Prelates, to obtain such a compilation of the Scriptures as would be unexceptionable to both parties. Two selections were submitted, one by the Protestant Bishops, entitled "Scripture Lessons ;" another by the