

young man, was objected to by many on the alleged ground that in his philosophico-religious views he belongs to what is known as the school of Positivists. However, we believe the Home Secretary, in making these appointments, has, to a large extent, formed his judgment on his own independent enquiries. The testimonials from men of the highest standing—including Sir William Hamilton, professors Owen and Nuxley, Dr. Carpenter, and Mr. Grote, the historian—to Mr. Bain's profound knowledge of the mental and moral sciences, and his ability as a teacher, are most emphatic. But the fiat of the University Commissioners, the new college arrangements came into effect, and Mareschal College ceases to exist as an institution after to-day. On the 17th September 1505, Bishop Elphinstone founded King's College; and on the 15th September, 1860—just 355 years after, except two days—it may claim to start as the college at Aberdeen, an honourable rival, with many hallowed associations being extinct.

— NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND, 1859.—The report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland—their twenty-sixth report—states that at the close of the year 1859 they had 5496 schools in operation, and the average daily number of children in actual attendance in the year had been 269,203—an increase of 3112 over the previous year. The average number of children on the school rolls was 519,175, and the total number whose names appeared on the rolls at any time during the entire year was 806,510. The Commissioners trained during the year 289 teachers, and had in their service at the end of the year 5,636 principal and assistant teachers, but of these only 2,791 had been trained. 83.9 per cent. of the children are Roman Catholics, only 5.1 per cent. belonging to the Established Church, 10.5 Presbyterians. Of the Protestant children about 18 per cent. attend schools where the teachers are exclusively Catholics; of the Catholic scholars 3½ per cent. attend schools where the teachers are exclusively Protestant. The Commissioners direct their inspectors, in any cases where they find the children of one faith receiving religious instruction from teachers of another faith, to use their utmost vigilance to discover whether any compulsion or inducement, contrary to the fundamental rule on this subject, has been used to cause those children to be present at such religious instruction. But there really appears to be no proselytizing going on. The head inspector, who reports on the Clonmel "model school," mentions that all the young persons of different creeds trained in it from its opening in 1849 have remained steadfast to their religious principles; most of them are now in charge of National schools under Roman Catholic clergymen, some have become nuns, others have been appointed to situations in Roman Catholic seminaries, one in the Catholic Bishop of Waterford's college. The condition of the elementary schools appears to be encouraging. It is stated that there is a gradual improvement going on, and that the desire for rudimentary education is very great among the lower classes, and is growing, and the number of useful teachers is increasing. Mr. Vere Foster has generously expended upwards of £2000 in the purchase of school apparatus, which he has distributed among 785 schools. The demand for the labour of even children causes great irregularity of attendance, and the inspector revisiting a school after the lapse of four or five months may find half the children he left there are absent or gone. The reports of the proficiency in elementary knowledge vary greatly. Lessons in reading are very seldom given, and numbers of untrained teachers in rural districts never heard a good reader in their lives. It is stated that there is too much rote teaching and "hard driving" to secure apparent proficiency without thorough grounding in elementary principles. Boys who can work all the exercises in the arithmetic-book fail in the practical questions of every-day market life, and are shamed by an uneducated countrywoman, who will solve them "upon her tongue." These are defects to be remedied, but they are not peculiar to Ireland, and we learn that the reading and writing are satisfactory, and the arithmetic is fairly taught, in six of every ten schools. The girls are said to read better than the boys, but not to understand arithmetic so well. The children who are taught in the model schools get an education of a superior character, and in one of the ordinary National schools at Nenagh, the inspector was rather surprised to find that the parish priest had introduced Latin and Greek, and they are taught in a very creditable manner, and without neglecting the more essential branches of education. The advanced class construed *Horace* very correctly, and on the inspector giving 27 of them an improvised and difficult passage as an exercise in dictation, 19 wrote it with ease and correctness. In this school, with a daily average attendance of only 41, the school fees for the year amounted to £100; but in the rural districts the amount received from the parents is small. The sums paid by the children in 1859 in aid

of teachers' salaries, together with the local subscriptions, amounted to an average of only 3s. 3d. per pupil. There are a few industrial schools for girls, who devote part of the day to literary instruction and part to work, and thus earn wages and obtain an education at the same time; and there are 143 agricultural schools (including 58 workhouse schools), besides the Albert Agricultural Training Institution and Model Farm, the inspector of which states that several agricultural colleges have recently been established in America upon a similar system of combining literary and agricultural instruction.—*English Journal of Education.*

— PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BRITAIN.—During the past year there had been an increase of 171 in the number of schools, and of 58,387 in the number of children attending them. There was also an increase in pupil teachers of 1,200, in certificated teachers of 90, and of students in training 85. The increase in the number of children upon whom the capitation grant was paid had been 52,119; 247 new school houses had been built, with 178 dwellings for teachers, and 280 schools had been enlarged—altogether affording accommodation for 58,000 children. The estimate for the present year was £798,167; last year it was £836,920, showing a diminution of £38,753 in the amount. The diminution was rather apparent than real—for in the estimate of last year was included the sum of £75,566 made up of the accumulated deficits of the three previous years. Deducting this amount the estimate for the last year was really £761,000, showing an increase for the present year of about £37,000.

— EXPENSE OF EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.—It appears from a return just published that the sum expended in erecting schools in England, since the year 1853, under the minutes of the Privy Council of Education, is £1,187,112. Of this large sum £632,398 was supplied by local rates, £79,735 by non-local subscriptions, and £424,979 was furnished by parliamentary grants.

UNITED STATES.

— UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH.—The Nashville *Union* publishes an account of the ceremonies attending the laying of the corner stone of the new University of the South, on the Sewanee mountain, near Winchester Tennessee, on the 10th of October. The number in attendance was variously estimated at from 2,500 to 5,000, among whom were many distinguished gentlemen connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church. There are nine Bishops and a large number of the clergy and laity. At about eleven o'clock a procession was formed, and on arriving at the site the visitors and citizens opened ranks, and the Bishops and clergymen, clad in white surplices, the architects, choir and band passed through into the palisaded enclosure, where the corner stone was to be laid, and formed a circle round it. After reading of Scriptures, exhortation and prayer, by Bishops Rutledge, of Florida; Atkinson, of North Carolina; and Cobbs, of Alabama, Bishop Elliott, of Georgia, announced the deposits in the corner-stone. The choir then chanted the "Benedicite," with instrumental accompaniment, after which the procession was re-formed and marched to the place prepared for the delivery of the address of the Hon. John S. Preston, the orator of the day. Col. Preston then arose, and for about one hour and a half addressed the audience in a strain of eloquence which often rose to sublimity. An impressive prayer was then offered up by Bishop Smith, of Kentucky, after which the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Otey. Then the audience dispersed. Shortly afterwards the invited guests sat down to a sumptuous collation. The elevation of Sewanee mountain is about one thousand nine hundred feet above the level of the ocean, and it possesses a mild and genial climate in summer, which is but little colder in the winter than that of the surrounding lowlands. As the trustees say, the salubrity of the climate is beyond all question.

— IMPROVEMENT OF ST. CHARLES COLLEGE, MARYLAND.—St. Charles College, Maryland, is at present being greatly enlarged and improved. In 1859, when the improvements were commenced, the college presented a façade of eighty-four feet, built of granite. It was then determined to erect a centre building to be attached to the original portion of the college. This addition, which is now finished, is four stories in height, and has a front of sixty feet. Early last spring was commenced what might be termed a duplicate of the old structure, the whole design to present a façade of a centre building with wings on each side, making in all a front of 226 feet. About the same time was begun a large chapel at the west end of the college, 44 feet in width between walls, 120 feet deep, with a ceiling 50 feet high, inlaid with gothic ribbling. The chapel has now so far advanced as to be under roof. The whole block of college buildings are in the gothic style of the fourteenth century.