EDUCATION.

Defeat of the Laurenshire Public School System.

On Thursday a public meeting was held in the Town-hall, Manchester, the Mayor of the city in the chair, to consider the property petitioning Parliament in favour of the Lauershire Public Schools system of secular education, te be supported by local rates, and to be under the control of local authorities. The meeting, which was a very crowded one, and frequently presented a scene of the greatest confusion, lasted more than five hours.

We give Rev. G. Osborn's speech-

The Rev. G. Osborn, superintendent of the Fifth (Wesleyan) Manchester Circuit, rose amid the applause of the meeting. He said he stood before the meeting in a position very painful to himself—partly on the personal ground of ill-health, and still more on the ground that he was compelled to appear in opposition to many of personal friends (hear)—to gentlemen whose truly Christian character he sincerely respected. and with whom on other occasions and in other enterprises he was only too happy to be associated. (Applause.) No word should, therefore, estate his hos reflecting in the slightest degree on the purity of the requisitionists-(hear)and if, during the course of observations he might atidress, anything should be advanced that were that aspect, he had to beg beforehand that it wight be considered as unsaid, for he knew of his own personal knowledge that many of them as truly desired the extension of true religion and the welfare of the labouring classes of the country as he did himself. (Applause.) he stood before the meeting a minister of, he believed, the largest denomination of nonconformists within this realm, to avow the principle which the body to which he belonged had from the beginning avowed in all its public acts and official documents-namely, that education, to be of any true and lasting value, must be first religious and then secular. (Cheers.) To that principle, as one of the members of the connection founded by the late John Wesley, he was publicly and again committed; and he would be unjust to himself, unjust to his brethren in the ministry, unjust to the people whom he served in the gospel, if he did not take all proper op-portunities, like the present, of respectfully and temperately asserting that principle when he was asked for a deliverance respecting it; for he understood the paper sent to him by the Lancashire Public School Association, and the requisition which called this meeting, as a chalthey have done with their eyes and ears-(hear) cate as many as he can, and come as a body of men—the course of practical wisdom was not to disturb a thing that was be left to work its own way as well as the deno in its place. (Hear.) He could not conquive that it was an expedient thing, much less a requisite thing, to disturb that which was compathe minds of her Majesty's subjects in reference to the question, which should afford to those who had watched it for years, a reasonable hope of sountry, her Majesty's ministers, and parliament would be much obliged to them; for this question of national education has undoubtedly raistention of all those upon whom it had devolved. by position, taste, or previous pursuits, to examine the subject. (Hear.) How did the quesselecty, or the Metho list School Fund, or the Con- any man to form a competent opinion. He did (hear, and lengther)—and with that remark he tion stand? As he took it, it stood thus: In gregational Board of Education, or some one or not see why local rices were essential to the sup- passed on to the last observation which he wish-1839, the Government made a proposition ap- other of the numerous educational agencies port of a well conducted select; he did not see all to effer to the attention of the meeting. He proaching in part to the proposition which was which the discussion of this question had called why any private charity might not be indefinites hald the Lancashire School Association responsition.

now under consideration; they endeavoured to into action? (Hear.) To him it seemed wide ly extended, so as to meet the necessities of the put before the country the plan of a model school, with the understanding that it was to be extended and multiplied, and was to be taken as private capacity; and if it was sought to make the people, if the people would set about it cate; they were the nation in their public and (Hear.) Let those gentlemen, the promoters found their own schools—thear, hear)—let type and sample of what was then thought the best plan for promoting public education. They dow the nation with the wisdom it did not seem proposed by the Government. (Cheers.) Let put it forward on the avowed principle of recognition of the country that their schools are specific religious education they wished to in- ("Hear," and "No.") He affirmed that it was give a better education, in all respects, the if the country would not have the modification neither they nor he would live to see any for- to submit to have the country rate augmented of the Lancashire School system,—if the coun- mal measure of national education, such as some some five-pence in the pound, to make their of the Lancashire School system,—it the countries in an easure of national education, such as some system universal. (Checring.) But it was to minations in most energetic, extensive, he might a coat, and too much like their life's blood, to alsay universal, and self-sacrificing efforts to pro-1839 the government were compelled, the coun try compelled the government, to give up the modified proposition; and the government was made to feel that it would not do to tamper with the religious convictions of the people of this Education Bill. That was founded, as he understood it, upon a different principle, not of distinction between a general and specific regious education, but of putting the religious ducation of the people chiefly if not exclusively, under the control of the clergy of the Estalished Church. The country practically said. We will not have that system either; the counry practically said. We cannot consent to any eclusive system of religious education, maintained out of the national resources, which will give an unfair advantage to the Established Church; and the government, the strong government as it was called, if he remembered right, universally, and perhaps by itself, that strong government was obliged to give way; and he remembered that in that very hall, a large lenge to him, as an inhabitant and a ratepayer and energetic meeting protested against the proof the parish, to say what he had to say on this position of government. (Hear, hear.) Pracquestion in a public, straightforward, and old sically, a trial had been made of the only two fauglish manner. (Hear.) When he received principles on which a national system of education paniphtet issued by the Lancashire School tion could be proposed, so as to be satisfactory. tically, a trial had been made of the only two tion could be proposed, so as to be satisfactory, Association, after glancing at it somewhat hasti- and both these trials have failed, the governly he put it by, with a reflection something like | ment then said, If you will not have education this—Where have these gentlemen spent the without religion, and if you will not have it undistricts, so as to enable them to receive the belief the guidance of the church, the only thing that they have been hid? (Laughter.) What can that remains if for each in his own way to edule. He could not think, as a matter of fact, that the know what the question was. (Hear.) or is it possible that gentlemen connected with assistance as your own diligence and zeal may this great commercial metropolis, who show so authorize you to claim. Practically they said much diligence in watching the movements of this; they could not say it formally; and statespublic men ou public measures, have been in a men of all politics, though they might have an charmed sleep, and overlooked what has been objection to the constitution of the privy counpassing in reference to public education? (Hear, cit, though they might have an objection to settlear.) On no other principle could be account thing the question, by what they called a side to himself for the issuing of the pumphlet and the formation of an association. For why? He supply instead of having a regular discussion, understood it to be the course of wisdom—and statemen of all parties admitted that the quesin practical wisdom he believed no men ex- tion was practically settled; the government coulded the men of Manchester, taking them would do no more, and the principle upon which both Whigs and Tories had now proceeded, must at rest, unless they had something manifestly, minimum which composed the nation would al-and e-stainly, and obviously better to substitute low it to work. (Mear.) The gentleman, who iu a temporate and able address, which was a that it was an expedient thing, much less a re-quisite thing, to disturb that which was compa-ratively at rest, and to attempt to stir up the pot by hallooing and shorting, it was not by minds of this great community, not to say great bissing and grouning, by clapping and stamping, country, on the question of national education, they could settle questions of this kind,—the when it had practically and definitely received gentleman, who in the calm and temperate a sottlement—("No, no")—unless regardence speech, with which he opened the meeting, set would nardon him—unless the substituted plan them all a pattern they might do well to imithat was brought forward by the gentlemen was tate, appeared to him to commit an egregious likely to command a greater share of public sup- fallacy; he distinguished between the nation port, a larger amount of energetic and a tive and the bodies which, taken together, constitufriendship, than was vouchasfed to any of the ted the nation. He said-The church cannot plans higherto proposed or in operation. It gen-tlemen could come with a plan which should al-cate the people, and, therefore, the nation must lay existing differences, which should compose educate the people. Granted, if the nation was some third party, neither the church nor the woluntaries; but if the nation was the aggregate of the church and the voluntaries, how did the bringing it to an amicable termination, not only definction help the matter; how did they come those who were in that room in opposition, but the nearer the neutlement of the question by the great mass of the religious public in this proposing that the nation was to act? (Hear, near.) Was not ber Majesty the Queen a sub scriber to the National School Society -did not Lord John Russell subscribe to the Pritish and ed the deepest solicitude, the most anxious at- Foreign School Society -were not cal met mi- they could be was to give a sound primary reli- eashire. School Association? (Loud laughter nisters, and the members of the Horses of Par-

the nation do what was necessary, they must enved to be, out of the public funds. (Cheers.) the National Society, and of other associations before to the gratitude of the country.

put it forward on the avowed principle of recog- to possess. Lake Larmanient as the representation worthy of so much confidence as to entitle them cific religious education; the general religious tion through the last ten years, and then say, to be adopted universally; if they could show education they trusted to the schoolmaster, the whether it was not practically a settled question. whether it was not practically a settled question. better schools, cheaper schools, and that they trust to the minister. The country said, in effect, we will not have it; and, depend upon it, try, in 1839, would not have the distinction between general and specific religious education, the country, in 1849, would not have religion thrown overboard altogether. (Cheers.) The country in this respect had gone ten years forward and not ten years backward. (Hear.) The ten years that had elapsed since the first thrown overboard had elapsed since the first two was satisfied their religious differences, as Mr. government proposition was submitted to the country had been spent by the Christian denothe pound in your county rate, in order to can ry out a new experiment in school-teaching." Cheers.) He said a number of gentlemen mote the cause of education. (Applause.) And bine, and without combination, it was impracti- for he should be glad indeed to reduce the prohe was satisfied, from having watched the sub- cable. Force would not do it; the country moters of the system to any one definite sect; ject closely, as, in consequence of the position would not be parcelled out as France had been; and it seemed to him that very circumstance be occupied in the body to which he belonged, primary schools and colleges could not be set up sealed their fate—that they could not so classife sealed their fate—that they could not so classify he was bound to do, that the conviction of the in England as in France; an Englishman would them in the present state of public opinion, country would go more strongly against the se- have his own way, and his way in this case was, would make an end of the matter; for so far paration of education from religion altogether, in 1849, than it did in 1839. (Hear, hear.) In shown to be the way of separate denominational er acceptance than the system upon which the er acceptance than the system upon which the education-(cheers)-assisted, as far as it deser- country was now proceeding, he asked who would be likely to patronise it, who would be The question arose as to whether the plan pro- likely to take it up? (Hear.) It might be es posed by the Lancashire School Association was sy to get up a public meeting, and to find occalikely to supersede the existing system in pub- sional supporters of projects of this kind, bet country. In 1843 we had another attempt of lie estimation. He thought that to be the question lie estimation. He thought that to be the question lie alluded to the Factory's tion which practically was to be considered then. The time was gone by for speculatists, for theo- blished Church take it up? ("No, no.") La rists; the last ten years had been spent in ac- the National Society answer. (Hear, hear.)tion, and he who could not act now might as He was no member of the Established Church well go home and go to bed. (Laughter and although he claimed to regard her with a friend applause.) What was the resolution which they ly feeling, and to have something like a flial were called upon to affirm by their vote !- tenderness for her, as he thought any man who That the principle on which the assistance of called himself a child of John Wesley ought to the state is at present extended is manifestly er- have; but, he said, the Established Church had roneous inasmuch as sid is given in an inverse | done itself infinite honour in the last ten years, ratio to the necessities of the people." He by the liberality which it had displayed, by the was atraid there was some misapprehension on sacrifices which the clergy had made-("No, the part of the drawers of the petition in refer | no," and cheering) -- by the diligent oversight ence to it. They could not have examined the of the general system of of the National Societies. reports of the National Society, or the Minutes of the Councilon Education, withof the Council of Education, withof the country, by the marked out perceiving that though the necessities of the the rural and manufacturing and mining dispeople in any given district might be such as tricts-("No. no")-achieved at a large amount would prevent their subscribing the sum required in order to obtain the government grant, the benevolence of their neighbours was extended last ten years, the Established Church had done to poorer districts—("no, no,")—and that by itself infinite hencur—(cheering—and had means of the diocesan—(hear, hear)—funds of greatly strengthened what chains it researed greatly strengthened what claims it possessed having similar objects, aid was afforded to poor the Methodists ask it? (A cry of "Question" nhabitants of those districts did suffer to the ex- question was, should this petition be adopted or tent spoken of. It was said this aid "is con- his (Mr. Osborn's) amendment: he was speakveyed almost entirely through the medium of the ing upon the question and arguing against the various religious denominations." What worse was it for that? (Cheering.) The people got it, the schools were built, the schools were furtition was not likely to be a successful system; maked, the books were provided, the masters that it would not be a system acceptable to the were trained, the schools were open,—what was it the worse for coming through various religious denominations? (Cheering.) He should Will the Wesleyans take it up? (Lond criss) like to know it, under present encumstances, it of "No, no.") He answered—No. Would the could gome in any other way. (Hear.) Per-Congregational Board take it up? were they haps the promoters thought they had struck out not already pk deed to religious education? another way. (Hear, hear.) But it was said, Hear, hear. Had not the Congregational That any system of public schools likely to be Board within the last few months formed a fund generally acceptable to the people of the coun- on the express ground, first, that education must try, and to meet the complicated difficulty of be religious, and secondly, that being religious the question, must be supported by local rates, the state ought not to pay for it, and thirdly and managed by local authorities." Why? The that if the state ought not to pay for it the gentleman who moved the petition, he had ex- gregationalists ought and would? (Hear.) He pected would have adduced his reasons; he had asked if that was not the plain English of the listened for them, but listened in vain. (Hear.) congregational fund, and whether in the face of He did not understand why in the nature of the the fact of the congregationalists having set ... case, education, to be efficiently conducted, must be supported by local rates. He could give as likely they would take up a plan which side good an education in the school of the denomi- there should be no religion taught in the school nation with which he was connected for 2d., 3d., (Cheers) The supposition was absurd. Indior 4d. a week as could be given in any school supported by local rates ("No, no.") He knew it (Hear.) They said no, no. (Rebut the Congregational Board could never separate the congregational Board could never separate the congregation of the con peated cries of "No, no.") Let them look at stultify itself as to take up this scheme. (Hear.) he master. (Hear.) The master made the Would the Roman Catholics? ("No.") They school-(hear)-there were not so many insti- could not. The church of Rome, much as le tutions in which masters could be trained; and gloried in separation from it, had set us a pair it he sent a competent man to what he knew to term in the diligence and constancy with which e a good training system,-if he hereafter car- she inculcated her own peculiar religious tenried out that system .- if his school was duly fur- ets on the vonth committed to her care. (Hear) nished, and his children were regularly in attendance, he said again—he knew it. There tholies would take it up. Would the Jews? was only a certain range over which it could be (Hear.) They too were a pattern to us, in the carried, and they could not go beyond that, I diligence with which they taught their yout. while the children continued in the school; all | Who would take up the scheme except the Latgions education, and that was a thing about and cheering.) He was really sorry to find

able for this scheme; and tho fad in the perition what he did in their pamphlet, a recognition the Scripture extracts, he rathe the absence of it. Was it bedemen threw overhor, d the S. r. Why did they not have in their day had in the paniphet? should not be considered as expected fair dispussion; he hoped he putting a question which should dive too deep into the calchet requisitionists; but he could not the question to homself. He found phlet, a recognition of a principle to be fraught with mischief, which no way to be an accessory of, and dered the gentlemen who got did not remember, or remembere tively little purpose, had been spon before,—twice before.—an failure. They had the Scriptu the case of the British and Fore ciety, which gave ilse to consider had they proved universally acc supporters of the societs, had it in practice, that the masters may and the mas er could thach anyt proper with the extracts.— (he at them; and had it not been found whole Bible small be got for ter Messed God for it, it was hardle the score of economy, to teach f (Applause.) Then they had the national commissioners in Ir been a surces ful experiment men so completely forgotten the last ten venes. He asked, afraid to go on with a system it experience, and were now agreentracts allogs her? He shoul which of the distributives the co ed; his argument was not com -Land a Watchman, Apr 11 FAMILY CIRC

A Child over the 1

Two or three weeks since, a children were playing by the b gara river. There was a boat on the shore, and the children were jumpling in and out of it. ly slipped out into the ways, I boy with it towards the feaming

It was the Sabbath, and the just coming out, when the alars a child was zong over the falls ther of the hope news reached the first, and saw her darling into the rap is. A good swinn have saved him, but the only could not swim, and I for oth beyond the reach of aid. The p in the book and stretched h his mother, calling, " Marnina, 1 I want to come to you, mam poor feattle mether ran screan ing along the shore, be-seechir save her child. But nothing ed was a hopeless case. A this through the crowd, as the boat's was upset, and the little fellow antil his body was picked up t low the falls

After hearing an account of which came from one who with in my mind's eye, another seen and terrible, and which should bearts a deeper and more inte

did this scene at Nagara. I see hundreds of immortal down the rapids of time, toward cipice over which they will p nity. Heedless of approaching burried on, till suddenly they rock, disappear, and are seen a time when they pught be were to put forth all their off stand by seem not to see the c not the warning voice. (), unaccountable is this apathy.
was to be seen as plainty as wa drifting towards the caparact. warnings to them, what cries t

If, my young friend, you have heart to the Saviour, if you as Christian, even though all may pleasant around you, you are tainly drifting on, and will soon rapids. But remember, that beyond the reach of saf to. arm stretched out, upon which and be drawn from those way firmly placed on the "Pock and the seatone you will be may dash and foam around y never disturb that " firm fo him who rests his hope a there rock in time, for the dreadful beiere you, and you know no