

Dr. Dale of Birmingham, the Bishop of London, Canon Grey, the Rev. Dr. Rigg, and Sir John Lubbock.¹

In view of this proposed formal investigation, it would be foolish to venture a judgment upon any of the mooted points; but pending the results of the investigation, it is interesting to consider some of the conditions that made it necessary. These are set forth in statements of facts and opinions with which the public mind has been more or less occupied for two years past. We cannot but observe that English opinion in this connection is seldom hap-hazard conjecture. So many agencies are engaged in the work of elementary instruction, so many important interests involved, that every published statement is subjected to keen scrutiny; and few men will risk their reputations in the controversy unless they have ready an array of facts with which to meet opponents. Moreover, if a false statement is made or an untenable position assumed, the exposure is not confined to educational journals having little circulation outside of the school fraternity, but the leading newspapers give it the widest possible scope.

It is admitted on all sides, that the most important question to come before the commission is that of payment upon results. Naturally this mode of dealing with the grant finds warm advocates among the members of either house whenever the code or the budget is up for debate. Among these advocates are many whose opinion is formed upon personal knowledge of the operation of the provision. Chief among the number is Mr. Mundella, whose views are set forth in the following passage from his speech in opposition to a motion of Mr. Talbot, member for Oxford. Mr. Talbot had moved a petition to the Queen, praying her to withhold her consent from the article of the code providing for payment

¹ Since the above was written, the full constitution of the commission has been announced as follows: Sir Richard Assheton Cross, G. C. B.; M. P., (chairman); Cardinal Manning; The Earl of Harrowby; The Earl of Beauchamp; The Bishop of London; Lord Norton; Mr. A. J. Mundella, M. P.; Sir Francis Sandford, K. C. B.; Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M. P.; Sir Bernard Samuelson, Bart., M. P.; Mr. J. C. Talbot, M. P., Canon Gregory; The Rev. T. D. C. Morse; Mr. B. C. Molloy, M. P.; Mr. C. H. Alderson; Henry Richard, Esq., M. P.; Mr. Samuel Rathbone; Mr. Sydney Buckston; Dr. R. W. Dale; Dr. Rigg; Mr. Thomas E. Heller; Rev. Benjamin F. Smith; Mr. George Shipton, Mr. Hugh Cowie, Q. C. (secretary).