

Seeing how urgent and of what vital importance this question was for England, and eager to favor the cause of religion in that country, in hopes of bringing it back to the unity of Catholic Faith, the petition of His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan was favorably received.

Elementary education in England is imparted either in *Voluntary* or *Board Schools*. The voluntary schools are built by private contributions, and provided certain conditions, which seem reasonable enough, be complied with, they are entitled to State aid. With this government subsidy, about half the expense may be defrayed, the balance must come from the voluntary subscriptions of the faithful.

The board schools are founded and supported at the public expense, and are all, whether secular or religious, placed under State control.

These latter schools were instituted to supply any deficiency of voluntary schools. They are to be opened only when and where the former are insufficient for the needs of education. Formerly they received children of all denominations without distinction. This state of things could not last, and the question of religion came to the front and demanded a solution. Thereupon it was enacted in 1871, that the instruction given in those schools should be distinctly religious and based on Holy Writ, but so modified as to leave in abeyance the peculiar doctrinal tenets held by the various denominations. This compromise was accepted for what it was worth by many Protestant parents. Since then, to save themselves the trouble of building new schools or enlarging those already existing, the Protestant directors of voluntary schools accepted in many cases the proposal of the government, and leased their schools with a view of placing them under board management.

Catholics have invariably held aloof from this move-