

School. To its attainment all his energies are directed. He is not influenced merely by the desire of doing his duty, and of promoting the general advancement of his pupils. He has a more definite object. His professional character and prospects are much more nearly affected by the immediate success of his pupils, when they first leave him, than by their prosperity in after life. In the one case, there can be no doubt that his skill mainly contributed to the desired result,—in the other, his share cannot easily be perceived or apportioned. But while he hurries on his most promising boys every year, he insensibly draws along with him the whole School. How highly Exhibitions are prized, both by the scholastic profession and by the public, the complaints of the unendowed Schoolmasters, and the reasons which they assign for those complaints, sufficiently prove. These we have already given in their own words, but now, in support of our views, we shall bring forward the evidence of two "practical men." Both are successful teachers, the one in England, the other in Ireland: the former has Exhibitions attached to his School, the latter has none. The former, the Rev. John Day Collis, who, though an Irishman by birth, has converted a poor and decayed Grammar School in Worcestershire, into a prosperous and valuable Institution, in an interesting address, when commemorating the Tercentenary of the foundation of his School, makes the following remarks:—"There is one advantage in the meagre sum (£35 a year) which the Head Master receives here; and it is this, that he must work for his bread. \* \* \* The best endowment for any School, the most certain means of attracting pupils, and stimulating their exertions as well as those of the Masters, is to endow it with scholarships and exhibitions. These keep alive the energies of the master no less than of the pupil; these stimulate the flagging zeal of the former, and by holding out to the latter a substantial reward for industry, they give a spur to study such as it would be in vain to look for from any other quarter. The real endowment of this School consists in the six Scholarships to Worcester College, with the six Fellowships attached. These are the substantial prizes we have to offer the rising talent of our pupils, these the rewards which will fall to the lot of industry and application." Our other witness is the Rev. Dr. Wall, of Dublin, the President of the Academic Association, and for thirty years a successful laborer in his arduous profession. This gentleman, after strongly advocating the remodelling and general extension of the Exhibitions, writes, "The exhibitions thus obtained (to continue for four years) will enable a number of deserving and well educated young gentlemen to obtain a degree, and pursue a profession in whichever College they consider most to their advantage; whilst the prospect of such a thing being within his reach will stimulate many a schoolboy who may not finally be successful, to aim at a higher degree of excellence than he would otherwise be inclined to do. Thus will there be secured in all the Schools of the country, endowed and independent, a uniformity of system and a good curriculum of useful knowledge, to become the groundwork of future distinction and of a more extended education; the standard and tone of Education will be raised in every School, and as it will in this way be necessarily of a better order, even those boys who would have no chance of succeeding at such an examination, yet being reared in the atmosphere of an improved system of instruction, cannot fail of being better taught than they otherwise would be."

*Importance of Inspection.*—The most direct and certain advantage which we should anticipate from this system arises from the constant inspection of the Schools. The salaried Commissioners, or if these were not appointed, Inspectors under the direction of the Board, should at least once a year visit every School of the Board, and report upon its general condition. *The healthy and prosperous School would court the fullest enquiry.* The ill managed and neglected would alone object. Parents would rejoice in such a system, for it would both prevent and correct abuse. They would also be able to obtain authentic information as to the character of the School to which they proposed to send their children. Masters would find a favorable report of their system of instruction, and of their attention to the health and comfort of the boys, a mere satisfactory recommendation than references to a few distinguished person

whose personal knowledge of the School is often very slight, or even than occasional Honors at the University. The system of inspection has been found very useful in Elementary Schools both in England and Ireland. It has also been tried, as a voluntary system, with some success in the case of intermediate Schools in England, under the care of the College of Preceptors. Its absence in the Endowed Schools of this country is regretted by the Committee on Foundation Schools, to whose labors we have made such frequent reference.

The public, with the assistance of the examinations and the reports of the Inspectors, would quickly discover where the best teaching was given, and the best books were used; and the Masters, for their own interest, would not be slow in carrying out the results which were thus obtained. The different practice of different Schools would be a far more likely method of discovering the truth, than the most careful meditations of the ablest Board. The question, indeed, of the best subject for study at School in the present day is far from settled. But the experience which, in a few years, would be gained from so large an experiment, the results of which it would be the duty of the Board to preserve and digest, would furnish valuable data for the solution of this important problem.

In the Royal and Diocesan Schools, the appointment of the Head Master rests in most cases with the Lord Lieutenant. The exceptions are, the Diocesan Schools of Armagh, Dublin, Kildare and Meath, and the Royal School of Armagh, which are in the gift of their respective Prelates; the Royal School of Dungannon also appears to be in the gift of the Primate. The patronage of the Private Foundations belongs to the representatives of the original trustees, or to trustees now acting, or to corporations, or to the Bishops of the Established Church. We have already observed, that in no case, except the Schools of Erasmus Smith, and one private foundation of small importance, is any religious qualification required. A change in the appointment of Assistants would also be desirable;—at present the Assistant Master is paid by the Board, and is thus in a great degree independent of the Principal. But in a school it is quite essential that perfect harmony should exist among all the Masters, and that the authority of the Principal should be supreme. Such an end can only be obtained by giving the Head Master full power to appoint and dismiss his own Assistants. We believe that one of the largest schools in Ireland received a severe and lasting injury from the imperfect control of the Principal, and the difficulty of removing, without direct proof of misconduct, Assistants who were notoriously unfit for their position. The best plan would be to give the Principal a certain salary, and require him to provide as many Assistants as the School might need.

We have hitherto confined our observations exclusively to the Commissioners of Education, and the Schools which are under their superintendance. We have still to notice the Grammar Schools which were founded by Erasmus Smith. These Schools were specially exempted from the operation of the Act of George III. and are under a distinct and peculiar management. We do not think that there is any valid reason for this exemption. It can scarcely serve any good purpose to keep up a separate Board, and that too, of so unwieldy a nature as the Board of Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools, for the administration of four Schools. At the time when this Board was constituted, no other means existed of administering its trusts. At present the machinery for a more complete execution of the settler's design exists, and the interests of the public; and the Schools would certainly be promoted by placing them under the same control as all similar institutions of the country. The Acts of Parliament which regulate these Schools, require in every particular, careful revision. At present, each of the head masters receives the original salary of a hundred marks, or £66 13s. 4d. a year. The Ushers seem to have fared a little better. The Charter only allows twenty pounds a year, and one Usher to each School. The Board seem to have strained their power in allowing them £50 to £60. From a Parliamentary return, it appears that the entire expenditure upon the four Schools for the last year has been £658 10s. 9d. Of this sum, £186 17s. 5d. are set down for "rents, poor rates, insur-