

The Parish School Advocate,

AND FAMILY INSTRUCTOR:

FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

THE PARISH SCHOOL ADVOCATE, and FAMILY INSTRUCTOR: is Edited by ALEXANDER MONRO, Bay Verte, New Brunswick to whom Communications may be addressed,— post paid; and Printed by JAMES BARNES, Halifax, N. S.

TERMS . . . 3s. 9d., Per Annum. Single copies . . . 4d.

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VOL. I. JULY, 1858. No. 7.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

The subject of National Education has lately occupied the attention of the British parliament. A resolution passed through parliament asking "that an humble address be presented to her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to issue a Commission to inquire into the present state of popular education in England, and to consider and report what measures, if any, are required for the extension of sound and cheap elementary instruction in all classes of the community."

At a late meeting of the Free Church at Edinburgh, this great social question was fully considered; and the Rev. John Nelson was appointed to prepare an Essay setting forth the free school systems of the New England States and Canada, with a view to the instruction of the public mind in the systems which have worked such wonders on this side of the Atlantic.

In the course of discussion in parliament on Sir J. Packington's resolution,

a great number of important facts were adduced to show the ignorance of a large portion of the people, and the inefficiency of the present educational system of England.

The percentage of children under ten years of age attending school in England, in 1850, was 37, while in 1857 it had fallen to 27. Taking the educational standing of seventeen different countries, England stands tenth upon the list; Scotland, though far behind the New England States and Canada, was in advance of England in her popular education. Some of the facts adduced by Sir J. Packington in evidence, presented a deplorable picture of ignorance. From a report of the Chaplain of the goal at Preston, in Lancashire, it was shown that forty percent of the inmates of that prison were ignorant of the very name of Christ, and nearly seventy percent did not know the name of the present sovereign of England. These, along with many other facts of an equally de-