

Another point in the enclosed sketches which seems objectionable is the expense attendant upon the plan.

I coincide entirely with the views of the writer, of the necessity, the absolute necessity for a decent provision, at all events for those who are expected to occupy the station of teachers. Their present condition is truly wretched, and reflects great disgrace upon the nation, and what but the actual result can or could be expected? I think a difficulty will arise as to finding Inspectors properly qualified, or who, in the present state of the country, can be trusted; but this may be modified by having recourse to the Clergy of the Church of England, and I doubt not but that assistance could be had from the Clergy of other Denominations of Christians.

Before recourse be had to increased taxation it should be shewn that the actual available sources for the purposes of National Education have been fully brought forward and if this were done I take it for granted the public would not object to supply any deficiency if such existed.

I wrote to a friend in the country, since the receipt of your letter, requesting his views upon the subject of National Education—I beg leave to enclose them for the consideration of the Commissioners of Inquiry:—the talents and qualifications of the Reverend Gentleman who drew them up, and his fitness to offer an opinion on what he has so long turned his attention to, are undoubted, and he has not seen any of the papers you enclosed to me; he apologizes for the hasty manner in which his ideas are put together, of which perhaps I am the cause, but I supposed the Commissioners wished for immediate answers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. B. DE BLACQUIERE.

JAMES HOPKIRK, Esq.  
*Secretary to Commission.*

(Enclosed in the Honorable Mr. De Blacquiere's letter and referred to by him.)

The inadequacy of the present provision for Education must be apparent to any person whose opportunities of observation have enabled them to arrive at a just conclusion. The facility however of discovering defects is confessedly a much easier task than to suggest an efficient remedy. The present system although it contains much that is commendable and which should not be relinquished, appears more especially deficient from the want of a proper supervision, by persons, who, from their education and station, would be enabled to carry out the designs of the Legislature. I speak now of Common Schools; they are defective on account of

#### 1st. Of the Trustees—

The incompetency of the present Trustees generally to superintend Education is too notorious to require comment. We find *Aliens* very frequently in this office. Their *popular* election is essentially bad.

#### 2nd. Of the Masters—

Among these there are few properly qualified, and there are also many aliens.

#### 3rd. Of the Books—

Nearly every school has its own Books, and aliens whose children