Second report of Society for educating the Poor — P. Jones 10 July 15 — 4
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SECOND REPORT

OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR

PROMOTING THE EDUCATION

OF THE

Poor of Ireland:

TO WHICH THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR, ENDING THE 30TH APRIL, 1814, AN APPENDIX CONTAINING EXTRACTS OF CORRESPONDENCE, &c. &c. AND A LIST OF DONORS AND SUBSCRIBERS ARE SUBJOINED.

Dublin:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,

BY JOHN JONES, 40, SOUTH GREAT GEORGE'S-STREET.

1814.

Houses of the Oireachtas

FORM OF A REQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

'I —— —— do give and bequeath unto the Treasurer, for the time being, of a certain voluntary Society, formed in Dublin, in the Year 1811, *entitled* "The Society for promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland," *the sum of Pounds of lawful Money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, current in Great Britain, to be paid within months, next after my decease, out of such parts only of my Personal Estate as shall not consist of Chattles real, upon trust to be applied towards the carrying on the purposes of said Society. And I do hereby direct and declare, that the Receipt of the Treasurer, for the time being, of such Society, shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors for the said Legacy."*

N. B. Devises of Land, or of Money charged on land, or to be laid out in Land, are void: but Money or Stock may be given by Will, if not directed to be laid out in Land.

Houses of the Oireachtas

AT THE

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THIS

SOCIETY,

Held at the

LECTURE-ROOM OF THE DUBLIN INSTITUTION, SACKVILLE-STREET,

On the 13th Day of JUNE, 1814,

THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE KNOX, IN THE CHAIR.

THE Report from the Committee of the past year, having been presented and read by the Secretary, and the Accounts of the Institution up to the 30th of April last, having been laid before the Meeting by the Auditors, it was unanimously

RESOLVED—1st. That the Report now read be received and adopted, and that it be printed under the direction of the Committee for the ensuing year, together with the Statement of the Accounts now presented, a List of Donations and Subscriptions, and such Appendix as the Committee shall deem necessary.

2d. THAT we remain unshaken in our conviction, of the great advantages which must result from diffusing throughout Ireland, a *well-ordered* System of Education, which, combining *Economy* of time

House of the Oreachtas

and money, with due attention to *Morals, Cleanliness,* and *Discipline,* shall be *completely divested of Sectarian Distinctions* in *every part of the Arrangement;* and that we are now *fully satisfied* of the *practicability* of carrying such a System into effect.

3d. THAT we are also convinced, that the pecuniary resources of this Society, have been hitherto altogether inadequate to the full attainment of this most desirable Object.

4th. THAT our late Committee having adopted *the best means within their Power,* for promoting the views of the Society, and having adhered steadily to its *fundamental Principles,* are entitled to our cordial thanks.

5th. THAT our Committee for the ensuing year, are hereby authorised and instructed to take such steps, as they shall think best calculated to obtain for our Institution, that *Patronage* and *Support,* which shall render its Funds adequate to the objects for which it was established.

6th. THAT our thanks are hereby given to the Right Hon. David La Touche and Co. the Treasurers of this Society, for their kind services since its formation; and that they be requested to continue the same during the ensuing year.

7th. THAT our best thanks are due, and are hereby given, to our Secretary, Jos. Devonsher Jackson, Esq.

for his unremitting attention to the interests of this Society; and that he be requested to continue his services during the ensuing year.

8th. That the following Gentlemen be our Committee for the ensuing year, viz.—*

9th. That the General Meetings of this Society be hence-forward regularly held on the *second* Tuesday, in the month of June in each year.

The following Donations having been announced to the Meeting, viz. from

Joseph Goff, Esq. (per J. L. Maquay, Esq.) - -	£50	0	0
Samuel Bewley, Esq. (towards building a *model School in Dublin.*)	50	0	0
Anonymous (per John David La Touche, Esq. also towards building a model School.) - -	100	0	0

Resolved unanimously,

10th. That the grateful thanks of this Meeting be presented to Joseph Goff and Samuel Bewley, Esqrs. and are hereby also offered to the unknown Donor of the above mentioned sum of £100, for their very liberal Donations to the Funds of the Society.

11th. That our grateful thanks are also given to the Chairman and Committee of the Dublin Insti-

* For List of Committee, see 7th page.

tution, for the promptitude and kindness with which they complied with the request of our Committee, to permit us to hold our present Meeting in this place.

GEORGE KNOX, Chairman.

The Right Hon. George Knox having left the Chair, and Peter Burrowes, Esq. having been called thereto, it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

12th. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Right Hon. George Knox, for his obliging attention to the business of the day.

PETER BURROWES.

Houses of the Oireachtas

COMMITTEE.

EDWARD ALLEN, Upper Bridge-street.
SAMUEL BEWLEY, Suffolk-street.
WILLIAM DISNEY, Somerset, Black Rock.
WILLIAM ENGLISH, Meath-street.
ARTHUR GUINNESS, James's-gate.
WILLIAM LUNELL GUINNESS, James's-gate.
WILLIAM HARDING, Lower Mount-street.
JOSEPH D. JACKSON, Leeson-street.
JOHN DAVID LA TOUCHE, Lower Mount-street.
PETER DIGGES LA TOUCHE, Leeson-street,
PETER LA TOUCHE, Jun. Fitzwilliam-square.
ALEXANDER MAGUIRE, North King-street.
RANDAL M'DONNELL, Allen's-court.
LUKE MAGRATH, Grenville-street.
JOHN LELAND MAQUAY, Fitzwilliam-street.
H. M. MASON, Kildare-street.
THOMAS PARNELL, Merrion-square, North.
JAMES SCOTT, Merrion-square, South.
RICHARD J. ORPEN, Frederick-street, South.
WILLIAM TODHUNTER, Holles-street.
RICHARD B. WARREN, Lower Mount-street.

Houses of the Oireachtas

Houses of the Oireachtas

SECOND REPORT,

&c.

YOUR Committee having completed their year of office, deem it their duty, in yielding up the trust reposed in them, to lay before the Society the transactions of that period. But before they proceed to the performance of this duty, they feel themselves called upon once more to submit to the Public, through the medium of their Report, the objects of your Institution, and the principles upon which it was founded, and has been conducted. Deeply impressed with the importance of the business in which you are engaged, as affecting the welfare of Ireland, your Committee are anxious to avail themselves of every opportunity, of attracting the attention of the public, and of thus obtaining from it, a serious investigation of the principles and conduct of your Institution. They are not disposed to ask for patronage or support, unless its importance shall appear to merit, and the state of its funds to demand it. If however, these two points shall be established, they trust they will be justified, in calculating upon the co-operation of every patriotic and liberal Irishman.

Your Committee rejoice, that it is no longer necessary to adduce arguments to prove, what appears almost self-evident, that Education, properly directed, is a source of happiness to individuals, and of benefit to society. Some

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good and enlightened men have, indeed, formerly entertained doubts upon the subject; but the question is now fortunately at rest, and all seem to unite in the sentiment so well expressed, by a late eminent Irish Prelate, "that Education makes all the difference between wild beasts and useful animals, all the distinction between the Hottentot and the European, between the Savage and the Man." But although it will not be denied, that it is most desirable, to diffuse the blessings of Education as widely as possible, some persons may think that the means of instruction already in existence, are sufficient for that purpose; and to such it will be necessary to say a few words, respecting the Schools for the Education of the Poor, now established in the country.

Your Committee are aware, that large provision has been made, as well from the public purse, as through the bounty of individuals, for the endowment of Schools in different parts of Ireland; but these Schools, though they may be excellent in their kind, are, comparatively speaking, few in number; and from the peculiar circumstances of this country, are not open to the great body of our labouring Poor—to those, in fact, who stand most in need of Education.

The effects, however, of these establishments being closed, against so great a portion of the population of Ireland, has not been to keep them in total ignorance of letters. The inhabitants of this country possess a natural taste for learning—an appetite for intellectual improvement, which must and will be gratified. The consequence is, that Village Schools and Itinerant Masters, are scattered pretty generally throughout the country.

But what is the character of those *Schools?* and what is the description of the *Teachers?* What *Books* have been in general use amongst them? and what *principles* are likely to be acquired by the *Scholars?* The best information which your Committee have received on this subject,

obliges them to state, that with a very few exceptions, the only object attended to in these Schools, is to instruct in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetick; whilst cleanliness of person, decency of language, and regularity of conduct, are totally neglected. The Books used in them, are often of the most pernicious tendency, and even the slight knowledge of letters, and figures which is thus acquired, is perhaps more than counterbalanced, by the sacrifice of time necessary to attain it.

Notwithstanding these defects, however, every School is crowded with children. Extreme poverty does not prevent the peasant from dispensing with the services of his children in domestic or agricultural employments, in order to afford them opportunities, of attending the neighbouring School; and many instances have come within the knowledge of your Committee, where both the parent and the child, have cheerfully reduced, their scanty means for food and clothing, to enable them to pay the monthly pittance to the hedge or village school-master.

Hence it appears, that those seminaries, where good order and regular habits are attended to, are almost totally inaccessible, to the vast majority of the labouring poor—and that the Schools of an inferior description, which have supplied their place, (even *if* they were sufficiently numerous) are yet highly objectionable, from the tedious and irregular systems adopted in them—the total disregard of the masters to the morals of the children—from the pernicious books which are used in them—and from the want of due discipline, which forms perhaps the most valuable part of the Education of youth.

Your Committee would therefore hope, that the means of instruction, now placed within the reach, of the great body of the people of Ireland, instead of inclining the public mind against your Institution, will afford an additional and powerful argument in its favour: for (to use the

words of an official document,*) "were it even admitted, that the benefits of Education are not to the lower classes of the people, as great as we conceive them to be, yet the necessity of assisting in obtaining it for them in this country, would not be diminished, but increased; for such Education as has been objected to, under the idea of its leading to evil rather than to good, they are actually obtaining for themselves; and though we conceive it practicable to correct it, to check its progress appears impossible—it may be improved, but cannot be impeded."

A desire to remedy those defects, and to supply those deficiencies, in the existing system for the Education of the Poor of this country, led to the formation of your Institution. It was founded on the 2d of December, 1811, by a few individuals, some of whom, having been engaged for years, in the support and management of an extensive School† for the children of the poor, in the populous manufacturing district of the metropolis—were thus convinced, by their own personal experience, of the advantages which must result, from an improved system of Education becoming prevalent in this country.

At one of the earliest Meetings of your Society, (6th January, 1812) the following Resolution was adopted: "That the Education of the Poor of Ireland, being the basis on which its morals and true happiness can be best secured, it is highly important, that Schools should be established, *divested of all Sectarian distinctions in every part of the arrangement.*"‡

* Fourteenth Report of the Commissioners of Education, &c.

† The attention of the public is invited to this School: it is situate in School-street, in the parish of St. Catherine. Annual Reports of its progress have been printed, for some years past, which can be had at the School, and will be found extremely interesting to the promoters of Education.

The model School of this Society, which will be noticed hereafter, is under the same roof.

‡ See the Appendix, No. 1.

This fundamental Resolution appeared to the founders of your Society, the "best calculated to meet the circumstances of the Poor of Ireland," and your Committee have the pleasure to say, that it has been very generally approved of in the country, and seems to have met with the sanction of the *Commissioners of Education;* who, in their 14th Report, presented to the House of Commons (under date the 30th October, 1812,) express their opinion, "that no plan, for the education of the lower classes in Ireland, however wisely and unexceptionably contrived, in other respects, can be carried into effectual execution in this country, unless it be explicitly avowed, and clearly understood, as its leading principle, that no attempt shall be made, to influence or disturb, the peculiar religious tenets, of any description of Christians."

This resolution, embodied in an address to the public, was immediately printed, and extensively circulated, and the objects of the Society, were then declared to be—to promote the establishment, and facilitate the conducting of Schools, upon the principle just mentioned, wherein the poor might be taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, in a cheap and expeditious manner. That, with this view, they should obtain, and communicate, information, as to the best plans for the building and fitting up of Schools, and should contribute (as far as their funds would allow,) to the expense incurred, upon this head, by local associations. That they should assist in procuring, properly qualified school-masters, and in furnishing books, stationary, and other articles, necessary for Schools, at reduced prices; and that the attention of the Society should be directed, to the new, and improved system of education, because it lays its foundation, upon the sacred scriptures, and combines economy, with due discipline, on which account, it appears eminently adapted, to the wants, and circumstances, of Ireland.

Such were the motives, which called your Society into existence, such the objects, it proposed to achieve, and such the principles, on which it is pledged to proceed.

The report for the year 1812, (being the only one as yet published by the Society.) informed you of the progress then made. Many important subjects presented themselves, to the attention of your Committee, immediately upon their appointment. Several benevolent individuals, as well as local associations, were desirous to establish schools, upon an improved principle. They had heard of valuable improvements, in point of *economy*, of *simplicity*, of *discipline*, and of *expedition;* but they knew not where to seek for information upon the subject. They were totally at a loss for a good plan, upon which, to erect, or fit up, a school-house: and even if a building were erected, they knew not how to procure a competent master or mistress, or where to purchase suitable books.

In fact, so many obstacles opposed themselves, in the outset of the project, that it is not to be wondered at, if many were discouraged, or disabled, from carrying it into execution.

To endeavour to supply these numerous wants, was accordingly, the first business of your Committee. The report of the last year, announced, that a Tract* was prepared, and then in the press, giving suitable directions, for building, fitting up, and arranging School-rooms upon approved plans. This Tract has been since published, and a considerable part of the impression, circulated through Ireland. Your Committee recommend it to the attention of persons, who may have it in contemplation, to erect buildings, or to adapt houses already built, for the purposes of instruction, as being calculated to save expense, and inconvenience, not only in the first outfit, but in the future con-

* It is for sale at the Society's Repository, School-street, and is entitled, "Hints and Directions, for building, fitting up, and arranging School-Rooms."—Price 10d.

duct, and management, of schools. It contains a few plates, which have been annexed, in order to furnish architects, and tradesmen in the country, with a few good plans, and sections, of the necessary buildings, desks, benches, &c. &c.

One of the most striking improvements, lately introduced into general use in schools, is, that ONE BOOK shall answer for an entire School, though it should contain some hundreds of scholars. A spelling-book, upon this plan, was compiled under the direction of the former Committee, and was in the press, when they went out of office. During the year which has now closed, the spelling-book has been published, and a reading-book, upon the same principle, carefully compiled, printed, and published.*

Your Committee may be permitted to remark, that in preparing and publishing those two books, and especially the latter, your Institution has rendered, a most valuable service indeed, to the cause of national Education; for without them, it would have been vain, to attempt introducing the improved system of teaching, into the Schools of Ireland. It may not be improper here, to state the principles, by which, the compilers of the reading-book were guided, in the execution of a work, which they felt to be one, of no less difficulty and nicety, than of importance. Their object was to combine, as much useful matter as possible,

* The advantages of this improvement, in point of economy, are extremely great. The spelling-book published by the Society, is sold for five shillings, and the reading-book for eight shillings and four-pence The former consists of 60, and the latter of 100 tablets—they are to be had, (with other articles used in schools,) at the Repository, School-street. Thus a school, containing several hundreds of scholars, is supplied with sufficient books for teaching them spelling and reading, at the trivial expense of thirteen shillings and four pence, which need not be incurred again for some years, if reasonable care be taken by the teachers. It must be gratifying to the Members of the Society to perceive, by reference to the accounts presented with this report, that whilst schools are relieved from heavy expense, and are furnished, at so cheap a rate, with such lessons, as they could not formerly procure at any price, the funds of the Institution will be increased by the sale of these publications.

and at the same time, to avoid every topic, which could be offensive, or objectionable, to any, for whom it was designed. They, therefore, kept steadily in view, the excellent fundamental principle of your Society—and were most solicitous, that whilst it should contain some religious truths, nothing should be introduced which could possibly excite jealousy, or uneasiness, in the minds of pious persons, of any religious denomination.—It contains much matter extracted from the sacred scriptures, but in order to avoid, even a suspicion, that selections were made of particular passages, for the purpose of inculcating any peculiar doctrinal opinions, the compilation, in this respect, has been made from the books, used in the Schools in this country, for very many years past, namely from "Dilworth's," and "the Pensylvania, Spelling Books;" and from "Reading made Easy." Indeed, the constitution of your Committee, composed as it is, of persons of various religious Communions, should in itself, afford a sufficient security, against such a suspicion; and your Committee could refer you, to the minutes of its proceedings, from the 10th to the 31st July, in order to satisfy you of the pains which were taken, that the contents of the Reading Book, should be examined by every member of their body, and that they should be altogether unexceptionable in every point of view. Selections, conveying good moral and useful information, in a stile pleasing to Learners, have been made, principally, from the works of the well known Lindlay Murray, and combined with the foregoing.

It is gratifying to your Committee, to be enabled to state, that these publications appear to have met with very general approbation. Many sets of them have been sold, for the use of Schools, in the most distant parts of this country, and applications are more frequently received for them, as they become more generally known. The sales to Schools, during the last month, have been more than double the amount of sales, made during any month preceding; and

your Committee cannot refrain from mentioning a circumstance, which afforded them considerable satisfaction, as proving, that the execution of their more difficult task, had been approved of, in the sister island. An order has been lately received, from Birmingham, for three copies of the Reading-Book, for the use of Schools, in the neighbourhood of that town. This was felt to be the more flattering, as books, on the same principle, have been published in England.

Your Committee, however, aware, that imperfections will probably exist, in a new work of this nature, would anxiously solicit the suggestions of all persons, who may be disposed to contribute, towards rendering a second edition more correct and complete.

Your Committee must also state, that you have still much to do, in this department of your duty, and that other elementary works, on the same plan, will be absolutely necessary. Nor can they avoid noticing the difficulty which now exists, of procuring proper books of any description, (either of instruction or amusement) for the use of the poor. It is not merely for School use, that such publications are necessary; when children have acquired the power of reading, it is natural to suppose, they will exercise their new faculty, and if good matter be not provided, it is to be feared, the bad will still be resorted to. The reading books now to be met with, both in Schools and in the houses of the poor, are often of the most pernicious tendency; and your Committee did intend, to have suggested the propriety, (if ever your funds should be sufficient) of printing and publishing cheap and instructive works, for the use of the poor: but they have great pleasure in mentioning, that a Society has been just formed for that sole purpose.*

* The Cheap Book Society, &c. &c.—see the Appendix, No. II.

With the same view, your Committee would point your attention, to the advantage that must result, from the formation of *lending Libraries*, in the different establishments for the education of the poor. They would not only be the means, of placing instructive books, within the reach of the poor, at a less expense than could be otherwise effected, but they would also afford an additional inducement to the reading of such books, for (as was well observed, by the superintendant of the Belfast School, in a letter to your Secretary) "if a book be lent, and is to be returned on a certain day, the probability is, that the book will be read within the time; but if given entirely, the reading of it may be deferred, until a more convenient opportunity, which opportunity may not soon arrive; as we are all ready enough to postpone doing, what we know we can do, at any time."

Your Committee being of opinion, that many valuable suggestions, are to be found in the letter just adverted to, bearing upon various branches of the undertaking, in which you are engaged, beg leave to lay an extract from it, before you, in the Appendix* to this Report, and they are led here to remark, that one great advantage, flowing from such an institution as your's, is, that a centre is thereby established, to which useful and interesting communications, upon the subject of public education, may be directed, from every quarter, and from which, the improvements derived therefrom, may be generally diffused throughout the country.

The next topic adverted to, in the report of your late Committee, is the advantage to be derived, from the establishment of a *School*, in this city, to which the Society might point, as a model, for the method of instruction recommended by it; and which should also be used, as a seminary, wherein young men might be trained, to act as school-masters, and from whence, they might be sent, as

* See Appendix, No. III.

occasion should require, to superintend or organize schools, in different parts of Ireland.

The report then stated the application, made by your Committee, to the gentlemen conducting the School-street schools, on this subject, and the readiness with which, they expressed their desire, to co-operate (as far as in their power) with your Society, in this part of your plan.

A room in the School-street establishment, capable of containing 250 scholars, together with its full complement of boys, has been placed under the direction of your Committee, (subject of course to the rules of the School-street Society) and this School has been at work, during the last nine months. Your Committee recommend it to the attention of the public, as the best existing *model* in Ireland, of the improved system of education.

The management of it is entrusted, to Mr. John Veevers, (the gentleman alluded to in the last report) who having been recommended, as a person eminently qualified, to communicate all the late improvements in education, has been engaged by your Committee at a salary of 200l. per annum. This is certainly a large salary, particularly so, when compared with your present list of subscribers; but your Committee hope, that the advantages to be derived, from this gentleman's experience, will justify them in incurring such an expense.

The attention of your Committee, has been much directed to this School, with a view to ascertain, the advantages of the method of teaching, introduced by Mr. Veevers, compared with the plan of instruction, used in the School-street schools; and they hope, by these means, to be enabled to combine, whatever is valuable in either; and thus to form such a system, for the education of the poor, as shall be most likely to forward the objects of your institution.

Your Committee have also directed their attention to this *Model School*, as well as to the old Schools, in School-

street, in consequence of the frequent applications, which have been made to them, for directions and explanations, respecting the mode of instruction recommended, by your Society. It has been found quite impossible to give adequate information on this subject, either by letter or oral communication; and as there are many persons engaged in the superintendance of Schools, in remote parts of Ireland, who would find it impossible, to visit any Model School, established in this city, though very desirous of information respecting it. It becomes extremely desirable, to publish a detailed account of the plans recommended by you, which shall be accompanied with illustrations, so that it may, as far as possible, supply the place of personal inspection. Considerable progress has been made, in preparing and arranging matter, for such a publication, and your Committee would strongly recommend, that it should be completed, as early as possible, in the ensuing year.

Shortly after the *Model School* was established, and a suitable field thereby provided, for exercising and training School-masters, your Committee endeavoured to make it useful to the public, in that respect, as far as the straitened circumstances of the Society would permit. Accordingly, about five months since, an advertisement was published, in sixteen of the most respectable provincial prints in Ireland, stating, that the School of the Society, in School-street, was then opened, for the reception of young men, properly recommended, who should be taught and trained, to act as School-masters, *free of all expense for instruction.* That the Society was not then enabled, to carry into effect its intended plan, of dieting and lodging, as well as educating young men, to be sent out, *by it*, to act as School-masters in the country, but was obliged to confine itself to the *instruction* of such young men, as should be sent to the School. That every possible assistance, however, would be given, towards providing eligible places, where

they might be dieted and lodged, at the expense of those, by whom they should be recommended, and where their morals should be carefully attended to.

Some measure of this kind was absolutely necessary; numerous applications were made, from various parts of Ireland, for competent masters, to organize or superintend Schools, and your Committee (to use the the strong language of the Commissioners of Education) being "persuaded, that a more essential service could not be rendered to the state, than by carrying into effect, a practicable mode of supplying a succession of well qualified instructors, for the children of the lower classes,"—determined to adopt the expedient just mentioned, as being the best calculated of any *within its power*, to relieve a want so urgent in its nature, and so generally felt in every part of the country. A few young men have been admitted into the seminary, who were recommended to your Committee, by the Directors of different Schools, in consequence of the before mentioned advertisement, and a table will be found in the Appendix,* stating the names, ages, and other circumstances, relative to these young men, the Schools for which they were trained, the number of scholars in each of these Schools, and the period which it required to qualify for the performance of their duty as teachers, such of them as have left the seminary.

Your Commitee, having now detailed the proceedings of the past year, cannot omit stating, that every step they took has been impeded, by the lamentable inadequacy of your funds. They have worked in fetters, and were, therefore, unable to accomplish your plans, to the extent required. So very limitted, indeed, have been the pecuniary resources placed at their disposal, that but for the liberality of the Gentlemen conducting the School-street Establishment, they would have been obliged to postpone altogether, two of the most valuable parts of your plan, namely, the *Model School*,

* See Appendix, No. IV.

and the Seminary for training Masters. And although the very friendly co-operation of those Gentlemen, has enabled your Committee to do something with respect to them, yet they are well satisfied, that the arrangements made at School-street, must ever prove inadequate to the attainment of the objects in view; and that unless you shall be enabled to erect a building, expressly for the purpose of establishing in it a *Model School*, and a *Seminary for training Masters*, the public cannot receive the full benefit proposed by you, from those branches of your Institution. Your Committee would also suggest, the great advantages which would be derived from having a person in your employment, qualified to organize Schools, who might be sent, for that purpose, to such parts of the country as the Society should judge most expedient.

Your Committee hope that this statement of the principles and conduct of your Society, will convince the public of its importance to the welfare of this island. And if this be a just expectation, they are very certain that a single glance at the account of your income and expenditure, will satisfy every man, who feels the value of your institution, of the necessity of contributing to its support. Your Committee refer to these accounts for particulars, they will only here remark, that whilst your annual subscriptions for the last year amounted only to £68 9s. 6d. you are under an engagement of £200. per annum for the salary of Mr. Veevers:—and further, that though the necessary *disbursements* of the past year, were no less than £317. 18s. 2d. the total income of the Society for that period amounted only to £248. 2s. 6d. being a deficit of £69. 15. 8d.

Before they conclude their report, your Committee would again anxiously press upon the Society, the imperious necessity of adopting means, for increasing your funds, more efficient than those hitherto resorted to; and they feel they should not act with candour, if they did not declare their

decided opinion, that this Institution must fall to the ground, if their successors shall not be able to awaken the serious attention of the wealthy and the liberal to the objects it has in view.

Your Committee have been most unwillingly forced to this conclusion, by the mortifying experience of their fruitless attempts to obtain pecuniary aid during the past year.

The eagerness with which every facility for education has been grasped at, by the poorer classes of the community, impressed your Committee with the firmest conviction, of the advantages likely to result from your Institution, and induced them (perhaps imprudently,) not only to exhaust your regular funds, but even to draw upon the anticipated bounty of the public:—but they fear they have been too sanguine in their expectations: they, as well as your late Committee, appear to have used every effort in their power, to give publicity to the objects and principles of your Institution, and for this purpose the sum of £134. 16s. 11½d. (which some may think excessive,) was expended by the Committee for the year ending April, 1813, in order to excite the public attention through the medium of the public press; and your Secretary did by letter apply for support, to almost every man of rank and wealth in the country; but such applications have been (with very few exceptions,) totally unattended to, by the persons to whom they were addressed.

It is true, the improvements lately introduced into the systems for the education of the poor, have become the subject of discussion amongst the enlightened, and even the theme of conversation amongst the fashionable, and whenever mentioned, every tongue seems eager to expatiate, on the happy consequences which must result, from the blessings of education being diffused throughout the country; but there is a lamentable apathy on the subject,

when those persons are invited to realize their theories, and carry them into execution.

Your Committee know not how to account for this deplorable indifference, to what (in their humble opinion) appears to be, of vital consequence to Ireland.

They have endeavoured to steer clear of all objections, arising from the peculiar circumstances of this country; and their object has been to promote a system of education, which shall enable the poor peasant and artizan to acquire information, without encroaching materially on his time or on his purse;—which shall inculcate principles of honesty and truth, at that time of life when the mind is best prepared to receive them—which shall accustom the poor to habits of decency and cleanliness, at the same time improving their morals and their health—which shall teach them to fix their attention, exclusively, on whatever business they are engaged in, and inure them to that kind of regular discipline and good order, which is of such essential value, to those who must earn their bread by their industry—which shall lay open the scriptures to every poor man, and, at the same time, be free from even the suspicion of aiming at proselytism, or any interference in religious opinions—and which shall, by these means, afford new sources of innocent amusement, useful knowledge, and religious truth to the poorest members of the community.

The value of such a system is universally admitted:—whence then does it happen, that the public are so indifferent about its success? Your Committee are inclined to attribute it to want of due consideration of the subject, and they are confident that this Indifference would be succeeded by activity and zeal for your institution, if the wealthy and the liberal, amongst our countrymen, would seriously consider the consequences, public and private,* which must result from such a system becoming prevalent throughout the country. Let them bestow a few moments serious thought on the subject, and *then* let them ask themselves, shall we

* See the Appendix, No. V.

extend our aid to this Institution—or shall we turn aside from it? And whilst we praise the objects it has in view, and the means by which it proposes to attain them,—whilst we warmly express our desire for the promotion of *well ordered education* amongst the poor, at the same time, refuse to contribute in the slightest degree to its advancement—in a word, shall we be consistent—or shall we suffer pecuniary motives, the most paltry and insignificant, to induce us to withhold our aid from an Institution which our judgment and our conscience compel us to approve? Let each man put this question to himself, and your Society will never need support.

Houses of the Oireachtas

An Acount of the Income and Expenditure, of the Society together with a Cash Account, for the

INCOME.

Subscriptions received within the year, . . .	£68	9	6
Donations, ...	172	17	6
Gained by the sale of books, paper, &c. . . .	6	15	6½
	248	2	6½
Expenditure exceeded Income, .	69	15	7½
	£317	18	2

CASH

Amount in the Treasurer's hands 30th April 1814,	£211	10	10
Subscriptions received within the year, . . .	68	9	6
Donations, ...	172	17	6
Books, &c. sold, ...	100	5	8
Due the Treasurers, ...	8	0	4
	£561	3	10

An Account of the Effects of the Society for Promoting

Books, slates, paper, &c. on hands, worth . .	£243	12	3½
	£243	12	3½

Houses of the Oireachtas

for Promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland,
year, ending the 30th April, 1814.

EXPENDITURE.

Paid Salaries	£183	17	10
— For Printing, stationary and advertising . .	76	3	4½
— Contingencies	57	16	11½
	£317	18	2

ACCOUNT.

Paid Salaries	183	17	10
— Commission on Sales	5	0	3
— Books, paper and quills	238	5	5
— Printing, stationary and advertising . . .	76	3	4½
— Contingencies	57	16	11½
	£561	3	10

the Education of the Poor of Ireland.

Due the Treasurers	8	0	4
— Collector (W. Heney) overpaid by him . .		8	0
Nett property of the Society	235	3	11½
	£243	12	3½

Audited the 13th June 1814, by

J. L. MAQUAY.
RICH. B. WARREN

Houses of the Oireachtas

Houses of the Oireachtas

APPENDIX, No. I.

THE Committee having forborne to enlarge in their Report, upon the value of one of the leading principles on which this Institution was founded, namely, "that Schools completely divested of religious distinctions in every part of their arrangement are best calculated to meet the wants and circumstances of Ireland," think they cannot more forcibly demonstrate, the justness of this principle, than by shewing the practical good effects which have resulted where it has been adopted. For this purpose they will here subjoin extracts from the printed Reports of two School Societies in Dublin, viz. the School-street, and the South Eastern District, School-Societies, in both of which Institutions, this principle appears to have been deliberately adopted, and steadily acted upon.

The School-street Schools were established so long ago, as the year 1786, on a very limited scale, and have been gradually encreasing in extent to the present time, when the average number of male and female scholars of various religious persuasions actually receiving instruction therein, greatly exceeds 1000. The total number of scholars admitted into the Schools since their foundation, is more than 30,000. The following is an extract from the Report of the Committee conducting those Schools, for the year 1812:

"But above all, the Committee are desirous of calling the "attention of the public, to the advantageous result from the "conduct steadily observed for a very considerable number of "years respecting moral and religious instruction. It may be "understood from what has been already stated, that no "distinction is made on account of religious opinion in managers, "instructors, or scholars, and from this harmonizing system, the "Committee have with great satisfaction observed the happiest "consequences; scholars of different religious communions, "harmoniously studying together, and teachers, some of whose "religious sentiments might appear to be much opposed to each "other, cordially labouring together for the good of the rising "generation. It may be asked, what particular conduct has "been pursued? The answer is—avoiding carefully the giving "offence to any, steady conduct to discourage bad, and to "encourage good morals, and reading the Scriptures, not only

" in the Schools, but leaving them in the hands of the scholars
" qualified to make use of them, out of school hours, and
" thus laying a foundation of religious instruction from that
" book which all denominations of Christians admit their
" respective tenets to be tried by, and leaving to the parents
" or friends any particular or sectarian instruction they
" should think necessary: this plan undoubtedly met with the
" disapprobation of divers persons in times past, and the Com-
" mittee do not call in question the purity of the motives of
" such; but the Committee would be doing injustice not to
" say, that these objections appear gradually wearing away;
" a fact which is abundantly evidenced by remarks written
" by visitors who have called to see the Schools, in a book
" provided for the purpose, and which is inspected in the
" meetings of the Committee. Some of these are so much to
" the point, that it is deemed not unsuitable to give them a
" place in this Report, viz.

" I have visited this School, and am perfectly satisfied of
" the advantage attending the system on which it is con-
" ducted."

" _____ _____"

" *July* 8, 1811. [Bishop of _____]

" Visited these Schools and was delighted at the order and
" regularity of them; am surprised at the vast improvement
" of the entire of the children, particularly the very young
" of them.

" _____ _____

" Roman Catholic Curate of

" 31*st August*, 1812. —— Parish."

" I visited this excellent Institution, and though my ex-
" pectations were raised very high, I found every thing superior
" to what I imagined; the order, silence, and obedience of
" the children particularly pleased me, though not less than
" the vigilance and kind treatment of the superiors to those
" entrusted to them.

" _____ _____

" *September* 1812. [R. C.] "Curate ——st. Chapel."

" *October* 2*d*, 1812—I visited this Institution, and after
" minutely investigating every part of its management, have
" every reason to be pleased. The order, decency, and
" regularity, with a degree of silence which I did not expect
" to find among such numbers, were highly gratifying; and
" the degree of improvement in the different classes appeared

"to me superior to any thing I could reasonably expect. As "I formerly entertained prejudices against the Institution, I "was the more particular in investigating its merits; and I "think it but candid to acknowledge, that these prejudices are "removed, and that I consider it as highly worthy of en-"couragement."

"———— ————"

[Rector of ———— Church.]

"I have been highly gratified on this day on observing the "manner in which this School is conducted: and do think the "master highly meritorious for his mode of conducting it.

"*November 23d*, 1812. "———— ————"

[Titular Bishop of ————]*

It was not thought necessary to multiply extracts of this nature, the few here given suffice to shew, that the mode of instruction adopted in these Schools, has received the approbation of Prelates and Clergy of the Established and Roman Catholic Churches, and is therefore adapted to the circumstances of Ireland.

The South-Eastern-District School Society was formed in January 1812, and a temporary School-room was opened in Digges Lane, for boys only. During the first year upwards of 400 were admitted into the School; and the number in regular attendance soon encreased so much, that it was found necessary to move the establishment to a more spacious and commodious house. In Spring 1813, therefore, we find the School opened at No. 62, Stephen's-Green, and at present there appear to be upwards of 500 male and female children, of different persuasions, attending, and receiving instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic: the girls are also taught needle-work. The number of scholars admitted since the foundation of these Schools, appears to be upwards of 1200.

We shall now proceed to give a short Extract from the Rules of this Society, and from the Second Report of the Committee being for the year 1813:

5th General Rule.—"Every poor child of whatever religious "denomination, shall be admitted into the School, upon a re-"commendation from a member of the society."

* "It has been judged best not to insert the names or residences of the "writers of the above remarks, without obtaining their permission for that "purpose, which it is obvious would be a task of too much difficulty to "undertake"—It may not be improper here to state, that the book from which the above remarks are extracted, is kept in the School-street Schools, Visitors are solicited to make their observations therein, subjoining their names and residences. It is therefore open to public inspection during school hours from ten to three o'Clock each day.

6th General Rule.—" The sacred Scriptures, without note or " comment, written, or oral, to be used in the School on Sun- " days; and all other books inculcating religious doctrines or " opinions, to be strictly excluded; it being the primary object " of this Institution to open wide its doors to *every poor child*, " and to convey instruction in such a form as shall be unobjec- " tionable to every denomination of christians."

Extract from the 17th and 18th pages of the Report:

" This subject* failed not to excite the serious attention of " your Committee. It was discussed amongst them, fully, grave- " ly, and repeatedly. Upon the utility of such instruction in " the abstract, they hope it is unnecessary for them to say that " no doubt existed. It was only upon the expediency of grafting " it, directly, upon a system already formed, tried, and found " efficient, that any question arose; and their opinion was de- " cided by a recurrence to one of the principles upon which the " Institution was founded, namely, ' to convey instruction in " such a form as should afford no room for objection to *any* " denomination of christians.' Not feeling themselves autho- " rised to alter a fundamental rule, which appears to have " received the public sanction; and fearing that they might even " expose to hazard their present capacity of doing good, by " (perhaps an unseasonable) effort to enlarge it, your Com- " mittee finally resolved to adhere to the old system: in which, " while nothing that can reasonably alarm sectarian prejudices, " is admitted—while no distinction is known within the School, " but that of moral and intellectual proficiency—whilst the " children are taught ' to love one another as brethren,' they " are not left wholly ignorant of the divine source, from which " alone, pure morals, and brotherly love, and true knowledge, are " to be derived. The Holy Scriptures, either in detached les- " sons, or in the venerable and sublime original, form part of " their regular studies. Thus far, your Committee hope, the " first principles of religious education may be given, without " exciting jealousy or causing offence. The rest must be left " to the friend, the parent, or the pastor. Though not incon- " sistent with, it is beyond the professed objects of this insti- " tution, which embrace not the whole, but some departments " only of education; which seek to assist, not to supersede the " exercise of domestic instruction. If more cannot safely be " attempted; it is well to effect so much; and it may reasonably " be hoped, that in forming habits of industry, decency, and " regularity,—in correcting vicious propensities,—in teaching " the rudiments of the useful arts,—and above all, in opening " to them the book of life, the pupils of this Institution, will de-

* Peculiar religious instruction.

"rive, even from its present system, what will at least have a "tendency to promote their welfare here and hereafter."

Local School-Societies, and Committees, are requested to forward to the Secretary of the Society for promoting the Education of the Poor, annual or other occasional reports of their progress and experience. The points, upon which information is most desirable, are specified in the List of Queries, to be found in this Appendix, No. VI. Such communication to be addressed to the Secretary, School-street, Dublin.

APPENDIX, No. II.

CHEAP BOOK SOCIETY.

At a Meeting held at the Royal Exchange, on Thursday the 26th of May, 1814,

LORD VISCOUNT VALENTIA, in the Chair.

It was Resolved unanimously,

"THAT inasmuch as Societies exist in this country, for circulating Bibles and religious tracts, but none, the sole object of which, is, to provide good books, not of a religious description, for the use of the poor:—It is therefore expedient to form a Society, for printing and publishing, at a cheap rate, such useful and instructive books, as may supersede the immoral publications, now used in Schools, and amongst the lower classes of the people, without, at the same time, interfering with any peculiar religious opinions."

The following are amongst the rules and regulations, laid down, for the government of this Society:

1st. "That this Society be denominated 'THE CHEAP BOOK "SOCIETY, for providing useful and instructive books, for the "lower orders in Ireland.'

9th. "That a subscription of one guinea, shall constitute the "donor, a member of the Society for one year.

10th. "That a subscription of ten guineas, paid at any one "time, shall constitute the donor a member for life.

11th. "That life and annual subscribers, shall have a privilege "of obtaining books, from the Society, *gratis*, to the amount of "one fourth part of their subscriptions, respectively."

The other rules and regulations of this Society, relate to the appointment of its officers, to the meetings of the Committee, which are to take place monthly, or oftener if necessary, to the

general meetings of the Society which are to be held on the second Tuesday in May, in every year, and to the mode of calling extra general meetings, and altering the rules of the Society when necessary.

Subscriptions and donations to the funds of this Society, are received at the bank of the Right Hon. David La Touche and Co. Treasurers; and communications intended for the Committee are to be addressed to James Bessonet, Esq. Leeson-street.

APPENDIX, No. III.

Extract of a letter from the Superintendant of the Belfast Lancasterian School.

26th December, 1813.

Sir,

Under the impression, that were Juvenile Libraries to be instituted, and attached to the several seminaries for the Education of the Poor, in this country, they would be eminently conducive, towards carrying into full effect, the grand object, which the Society for promoting the Education of the Poor of Ireland, have in view,—I have taken the liberty, of forwarding to you, the plan of one, which has been attached, to the Lancasterian Institution, in this town, to be laid before the Society, in order, that if approved of by them, it may be recommended to the other institutions, of the same nature, throughout the country.

To merely capacitate, the children of the poor, to read, is stopping far short of enabling them, to derive all the advantages, which flow from Education. If they are not afterwards supplied with books, their being able to read, must be entirely nugatory, and they might as well have been left, entirely, in their original darkness. And from the extravagant price of books, of almost all descriptions, it is not possible for them, to have access to them—but by the means pointed out in this plan, a quantity of books, suitable for persons in their station, may be procured, to which they can have access, and by which they may be improved as much as if the whole were vested in each of them individually.

In fact, lending them books, is a greater inducement for them to read them, than bestowing on them, the entire property.—For if a book be lent, and is to be returned on a certain day, the probability is, that the book will be read within the time,—

but if given entirely, the reading of it may be deferred, until a more convenient opportunity, which opportunity may not soon arrive, as we are all ready enough to postpone doing, what we know we can do at any time.

The annexing such a library, to a large School on this plan, must be the means of disseminating much knowledge, at no expense to the public, and at a very small one, indeed, to the parents of the children.—All that is required, is care and attention in its management, to produce the most beneficial results, to see that the books are returned in due time, and regularly paid for if damaged or lost. This may cause some extra trouble, to the superintendants of the Schools,—but a consciousness of the benefits, which will accrue to the children, will induce every good mind, with alacrity, to undertake the task. It is not merely the benefits, which may result to the rising generation, from such institutions, that is to be calculated on,—but we may rationally expect from them, a great improvement, in the minds of parents themselves,—as it is to be supposed, that they will derive advanage, from the improvement of their children, so as in a manner to become *their* pupils—and to be benefited, by having books, read in their hearing, which they never had the opportunity of either seeing or hearing before.—The Society has rendered, to the cause of Education, a most important service, by having printed the necessary lessons, for the Lancasterian mode of teaching.—the want of a sufficiency of which, had hitherto rendered, one of its greatest improvements nearly abortive,—as, for the want of such lessons, many Schools were obliged to resort, to the use of bound books, and thereby, the great principle of economy, could not be acted upon.—The labours of the Society, however, it is to be hoped, will not end there—as in another point of much consequence, their interference is much wanted.

From the advanced price of paper, books of all kinds, are so high, as to be beyond the reach, not only of the lower, but the middle class of society. And, as if there had been a combination, among the publishers of small books, for the instruction of youth, to prevent any, but the upper classes, from receiving information,—they have added so much, to the expense of such books, by embellishing them with prints, that those, (which should be cheapest,) are become the most expensive article, now to be had, in the shape of books,—many of them being sold for a shilling each, which might be otherwise had for four-pence,—this calls loudly for amendment,—and in no better hands could the matter be vested, than in those of the Society for promoting the Education of the Poor, a most eminent piece of service, would that Society render to the Community, were they to take up, the reprinting of all works of this nature, of which they could

procure the copy-right,—and have them done, upon plain, low priced paper, without those expensive embellishments.—It is not only the extra expense, which is objectionable, but they are not of the same utility, in that form, which they would otherwise be,—they are used by the children, into whose hands they are put, more as toys, than as the medium of instruction ;—and their time and attention are so much occupied, in examining the pictures, that the instructive matter, is altogether laid aside.—As rewards for good conduct, there can be nothing more suitable, than small books of pictures ; but let such come into their hands, only as rewards—and let us have some without pictures, merely for purposes of instruction, and at such prices, as may come within our means.—These latter observations, I have been induced to make, in consequence of my being obliged to reject, many little books, which might have answered the library here, but which were so extravagantly dear, as not to come within the means of the fund.

Another objection lies, against the greatest number of those small tracts, which is, that they are mostly calculated, for the instruction of the higher ranks in society ; it would be well that the Society, should hold out to literary persons, encouragement to write for the lower orders, such as Mrs. Leadbeater's productions, which are immediately applicable, to that description of the community, who are the objects of the Society's benevolence.

If the Society were to take up this idea, might not an application be made to government, to remit the duty upon such paper as might be used in the benevolent design, as it is the very high excise, to which, the manufacture of paper is liable, that has raised the price of books, to the present advanced rate.

Government has allowed Charity Schools, to escape the window, and hearth tax. Now there would be no more inconsistence, in allowing a draw-back upon all paper, used in such Schools, and on such, as might be used in printing books, for the instruction of the children, taught in them.

I am well aware, of the heavy expense, which would be incurred, by carrying into effect, this salutary measure ; but from the benevolent spirit, which is now awakened, throughout the country, and the number of Schools, which are established, and establishing, no doubt, but if the Society were to open a correspondence with them, they would all contribute, towards so desirable a project—either by forwarding immediate subscriptions, or by undertaking to purchase, a certain number of copies, of such books as might be printed.

To render the laudable exertions of the Society, more generally operative, I would most respectfully submit, to the considera-

tion of the Committee, the propriety of opening a correspondence with all the different charitable Institutions, for purposes of education, in this country; requiring of them, the manner in which the Institution, is supported—the number of scholars under tuition—the plan of teaching pursued, and to what extent—accounts of, what might be considered, improvements in the mode of teaching, with all other such information, as it might be thought useful to the cause, to publish: and also the propriety, of the Society appointing inspectors, to visit the different Schools, annually, and from their observations, to make reports, of the general state of education in Ireland; the visitors to point out, to the superintendants, of the Schools, all such improvements, as they might think useful, and with candor and sincerity, to remark, upon what they might conceive, to be negligence, or erroneous conduct, in the management of the Schools. The Society publishing a general Statement annually, containing all such information, as might be useful to the cause of eduction at large, and transmitting the same, to the different Schools, which should be paid for by them individually. By this means, all important and necessary information, would be concentrated into one focus, and from thence transmitted to every part of the nation.

I am fully aware, that if such inspectors were to be paid, the funds of the Society might be inadequate thereto, but I would hope, that some public spirited gentlemen, of independent fortune, might be found, who would qualify themselves for the task, and combine it with curiosity for seeing the country, and that whilst they were making the tour of their own country, gratifying and instructing themselves, they might render to the community, an eminently valuable, and useful piece of service.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
MOSES DAWSON.

J. D. JACKSON, Esq. Sec.
&c. &c.

APPENDIX,

A Table of the Names, &c. of the young Men who have

Number.	Name.	Commenced attending.	Left School-street.	Recommended by
1	James Maze.	Feb. 2nd,—1814.	Feb. 26th,—1814.	Mrs. Brownlow.
2	Daniel Horan.	Feb. 3rd,—1814.	Feb. 26th,—1814.	Governors of School.
3	Joseph Flynn.	Feb. 7th,—1814.	March 22nd,—1814.	Committee of School.
4	Wm. Spence.	May 12th,—1814.	May 28th,—1814.	Lady O'Brien.

☞There have been several other young men admitted, who remained in the Seminary for a short time receiving instruction, whose names it is not thought necessary to specify, as they could not be said to be trained therein. There are at present some others in training, and it is expected that as the usefulness of this School for Masters, becomes more known in the country, local associations and individuals patronising Schools will more generally avail themselves of it.

Houses of the Oireachtas

No. 4.

been trained as Masters in the Seminary of the Society.

For what School.	Number of Children.	Male.	Female.	When established.	Age.	When commenced teaching.	Religion.	Certificate given on leaving.
Lurgan, Armagh.	160	Yes,	No,	1814	26	1811.	Protestant.	
Francis-st. Charity School.	100	Yes,	No,	—	36	May 1799.	Catholic.	
Knocknagor Free-School, near Gilford.	60	Yes,	Yes,	1798	19	Feb. 1814.	Protestant.	Yes.
Ennis.	150	Yes,	No,	1814	23	May 1810.	Protestant.	Yes.

☞ Those wishing to introduce young Men into this Seminary to be trained, will be pleased to forward their recommendations of them, addressed to J. D. Jackson, Secretary, School-street, Dublin, or to any Member of the Committee. Their Addresses will be found in the Report.

Houses of the Oireachtas

APPENDIX, No. V.

The inestimable benefits, both of a public, and private nature, which would result, from the general diffusion of Education, have been so strikingly, and so elequently described, by one of the chief ornaments of the Irish Bar, that the Committee conceive, they cannot better consult the interest of the Society, or more effectually, promote the views of their predecessors, in the latter part of their Report, than by publishing in this appendix, the most correct report, they have been able to procure, of what fell from the distinguished and patriotic advocate, who moved the second Resolution, at the late General Meeting. After the first Resolution had been past and carried, Peter Burrowes, Esq. rose, and addressed Mr. Knox, as follows:

Mr. Chairman,

No man possessing a ray of reason, or a spark of benevolence, could hear the report which has been now read, without being interested in the subject, without feeling the warmest gratitude towards those excellent men, who have prepared it. The subject is at all times and in all countries interesting—in our own country it is peculiarly so.

It can scarcely be considered as national vanity; for it most certainly is national reproach, to assert, that there never has existed a country for which nature has done so much, and Institution so little, as Ireland. Without tearing open wounds which every good man would rather cover and conceal—without seeking for the causes of our degradation, in a retrospect calculated by the irritation it might cause, to reproduce the very evils we deplore, we can discover the principal and proximate cause in a disease, which, however inveterate, is not incurable. Our Committee, whose admirable report has been heard with such delight, have laid before us in one view, both the disease and the remedy.—Ignorance, and consequent irreligion, have disfigured the noblest work of God, and they have made a glorious effort—a successful effort if well seconded, to raise man from the mire, in which he grovels,—to render the bounty of heaven available to him. This is genuine patriotism—this is enlightened self-love—this is to pursue the noblest end by the most suitable means—this is to attack the disease at its very root—this is to confer the highest services, and to receive the

most gratifying reward,—not the clamorous and revocable gratitude of a capricious multitude, —but the exhilirating spectacle of a nation rapidly improving in morals, industry and religion.

Our sheep, our oxen, our horses, our very swine, are deemed objects, worthy of the most anxious cultivation. Societies are instituted—Committees are formed to investigate their qualities—to improve their breed—I might almost say,—to educate them.—Do I say this, to blame it? No! It is laudable—it is good husbandry—it is a subordinate degree of patriotism.—But can it be wise—can it be just,—to cultivate the brute, and to neglect the *man;*—this would be, not only to sin againt reason and religion, but to violate the calculations of the most sordid interest.—It requires but a very slight effort indeed of reason, to discover, that the produce and security of estates, depend principally upon the human animal. If he be idle, vicious, and dishonest, our soil will be barren—or its produce will be plundered—the gibbet may thin the land, but it cannot fertilize it.

The despot may tell us, he will enact wise laws, and compel universal obedience to them.—Is he aware of the weakness and perversity of human nature? Vain and presumptuous man! to hope that he shall effectuate, what even the eternal sanctions, announced by the ALMIGHTY fail to effect.—The demagogue will say, give the people privileges;—give them perfect liberty, and they will soon become rational, industrious and happy—preposterous inversion of the laws of nature! Education is the *cause*, not the *effect* of freedom;—the finest constitution, in the power of human wisdom to devise, could not be worn by savages brutalised by vice, and ignorance;—the most admirable laws, with such a people, would be *a dead letter*. As well might we, commit the arms of a warrior, into the hands of an infant, for self-defence;—but education, improving the moral character of man, not only fits him for liberty, but ascertains its attainment.—A moral and enlightened people, could not be slaves. It is morally—it is physically impossible.

Let not then, despair of success, chill that benevolent ardour which actuates our Committee.—They have not succeeded to the extent of their hopes—Men are more prompt to praise than to co-operate. But how are we to estimate such barren praise? —What are we to think of the individual, who can be indifferent in such a cause—who can contemplate the glorious work in operation, admit its utility, and yet refuse to lend his aid, to carry it forward?—Alas! the convincing report, we have just heard read, establishes the justness of the reproach;—with what lamentably inadequate means, have your Committee had

to struggle—and yet, what extensive good have they not already done? The paltry pittance of £240 is doled out for such an object—in 12 months—for the EDUCATION OF IRELAND! Such is the mortifying acknowledgement. But let them not despair—let them recollect that though trite truisms, however important, are often heard without interest—without motion; yet, the effort ought to be continued—the benevolent truism ought to be repeated and inculcated—sound theory, sooner or later, will ripen into practice—there is no telling the moment, when wealth and power, shall receive an active impulse from benevolence and wisdom, and shall obey the dictates of their own true interest—it may be to-morrow—it may be the next day—it may be postponed for years—but it is so *certain* that it will at some time occur—so *probable* that it will soon occur—and of *such immeasurable value* when it shall occur, that our Committee, may continue their labours with a perfect confidence, that they will terminate in success—of which the interest they have this day excited, gives the surest earnest. I therefore move you, Sir,

"That we remain unshaken in our conviction, of the great advantages which must result from diffusing throughout Ireland, a *well-ordered* System of Education, which, combining *Economy* of time and money, with due attention to *Morals*, *Cleanliness*, and *Discipline*, shall be *completely divested of Sectarian Distinctions* in *every part of the Arrangement;* and that we are now *fully satisfied* of the *practicability* of carrying such a System into effect."

APPENDIX, No. VI.

THE Society will most willingly dispose of their books, stationary, &c. to Schools of every description, without any distinction, on account of the peculiar manner in which such Schools, may be conducted; but being desirous of obtaining the most accurate information, upon the general state of instruction, in this country, in order to enable them to adopt the best practicable means "for promoting the education of the Poor of Ireland," most earnestly request, that all persons applying for articles disposed of by them, at reduced prices, may send answers, in writing, to the following queries, with such other information, respecting the circumstances of their Schools, and the situation of the neighbouring poor, as they may deem useful.

QUERIES.

1. WHAT is the name of the School?

2. In what Parish and County?

3. What is the nearest Post-Town?

4. When was the School established?

5. How many Scholars, { Male? Female?

6. Under whose direction is the School placed? Whether of an individual or Committee? State the names.

7. How many masters and mistresses are paid, and what is the amount of their Salaries?

8. What is the probable annual income? State how it arises.

9. Do the scholars pay any thing for their education; if so, what sums weekly, or quarterly?

10. Is the School held daily, weekly, or otherwise?

11. Are the Sacred Scriptures, used in the School, and if so, has the edition used, any Note or Comment?

12. What other books, are used in the School, for the purpose of instruction?

13. Is any Catechism taught in the School? if any, what?

14. Is there any distinction, on account of religious opinions, in managers, instructors, or scholars?

Houses of the Oreachtas

LIST

OF

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Names.	Residence.	Donations, including Subscriptions to 1813. £.	S.	D.	Subscriptions for the year 1813. £.	S.	D.
Ambrose, W. S. Esq.	College-green,	1	2	9			
Alexander, Robert Esq.	Sackville-street,	11	7	6			
Allen, Edward Esq.	Bridge-street,	22	5	6	2	5	6
Austin, Rev. Dr.	Middleton,	11	7	6			
Bonham, John Esq.	England,	11	7	6			
Beilby, William Esq.	Hardwicke-street,	11	7	6			
Brophy, Peter Esq.	Abbey-street,	11	7	6			
Barrington, John Esq.	Britain-street,	2	5	6	2	5	6
Barrington, William Esq.	Fleet-street,	2	5	6	1	2	9
Bewley, Samuel Esq.	Suffolk-street,	32	5	6	2	5	6
Cloncurry, Lord,	County Kildare,	20	0	0			
Colthurst, Sir Nicholas	Cork,	20	0	0			
Christy, James Esq.	Stramore,	22	15	0			
Corbett, Francis Esq.	Mountjoy-square,				1	2	9
Clonbrook, Lord,		11	7	6			
Digby, Thomas Esq.	G. Mount Pleasant,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Dawson, William Esq.	Stramore,	11	7	6			
Disney, William Esq.	Black Rock,	11	7	6			
De Vesci, Viscount,	Merrion-square,	42	15	0			
Ewing, George Esq.	Dublin,	1	2	9			
Evans, Hamden, Esq.	N. Gt. Georges'-st.	2	2	9	1	2	9
Ensor, George Esq.	Ardres, Co. Armagh,	2	5	6			
English, William Esq.	Meath-street,				2	5	6
Fyan, Robert Esq.	Ushers'-Quay.	2	5	6			
Flood, Patrick Esq.	Lower Mount-street,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Fayle, Joshua, Esq.	Green-Mt. Co. Dublin,	2	5	6	2	5	6
Fayle, Robert Esq.	Thomas-street,				1	2	9
Foster, J. L. Esq.	Merrion-square,	11	7	6			
Guinness, Arthur Esq.	James's Gate,	22	15	0	2	5	6
Guinness, Benjamin Esq.	ditto,				2	5	6
Guinness, W. L. Esq.	ditto,				2	5	6
Haughton, Edward, Esq.	Dublin,	11	7	6			

Names.	Residence.	Donations, including Subscriptions to 1813. £.	S.	D.	Subscriptions for the year 1813. £.	S.	D.
Hutton, Rev. Joseph,	Dublin,	11	7	6			
Hoare, Rev. W.	Limerick,	1	2	9			
Hamilton, Archbald Esq.	Domnick-street,	1	10	0	1	10	0
Harding, Rev. Thos.	Hardwicke-street,	1	2	9			
Hogan, W. C. Esq.	York-Street,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Harding, Wm. Esq.	Lower Mount-street,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Johnston, Doctor,	New-street,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Jackson, Joseph Esq.	Bridge-street,	5	0	0			
Jackson, J. D. Esq.	Leeson-street,	5	0	0	1	2	9
Kavanagh, W. Esq.	Burris, Co. Kilkenny,	11	7	6			
Kellett, Rev. Wm.	Moynally Co. Cavan,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Latouche & Co Rt. Hon.	David, Bank,	50	0	0			
Latouche, Peter Digges, Esq.	ditto,	13	13	0	2	5	6
Latouche, Peter, Jun. Esq.	ditto,	4	11	0	2	5	6
Latouche, George, Esq.	ditto,	4	11	0	2	5	6
Latouche, John David, Esq.	ditto,				1	2	9
Latouche, James Digges, Esq.	ditto,				1	2	9
Lefroy, Thomas Esq.	Leeson-street,				1	2	9
Monsell, William Esq.	Merrion-square,	11	7	6			
Manning, William, Esq.		22	15	8			
Maxwell, Hamilton Esq.	Dublin,	2	5	6	1	2	9
Maguire, Alexander Esq.	Bolton-street,	2	5	6	2	5	6
Molloy, J. S. Esq.	Capel-street,	2	5	6			
M'Donnell, Randal Esq.	Allen's Court,	1	2	9	1	2	9
M'Key, William Esq.	Stephen's Green,	11	7	6			
Magrath, Luke Esq.	Lakeville, Co. Cavan,	21	2	9	1	2	9
Magrath, Mrs.	ditto,	12	5	6	2	5	6
Magrath, Miss.	ditto,	12	5	6	2	5	6
Maquay, J. L. Esq.	Fitzwilliam-street,	22	15	0			
Norris, Berry Esq.	Mohill, Co. Leitrim,	1	2	9			
Napper, William, Esq.		1	2	9			
Newport, Sir John, Bart.					2	5	6
Orpen, R. J. Esq.	Frederick-street,	11	7	6			
Orpen, E. H. Esq.	ditto,	1	2	9			
Orpen, T. H. Esq.	ditto,	1	2	9	1	2	9
O'Brien, Lady,	Dromoland, Co. Clare,	2	5	6	1	2	9
O'Brien, Sir Edward, Bart.	ditto,	1	2	9			
Pomeroy, Rev. John,	Merrion-square,	1	2	9			
Purser, John Esq.	James's-street,	5	0	0	1	2	9
Parnell, Thomas Esq.	Merrion-square,	22	15	0			
Perrin, James Esq. Jun.	Abbey-street,	2	5	6			
Pim, Thomas Esq.	William-street,				2	5	6

Names.	Residence.	Donations, including Subscriptions to 1813. £.	S.	D.	Subscriptions for the year 1813. £.	S.	D.
Phelps, Wilcocks Esq.	Capel-street,	2	5	6			
Southwell, Lord,	County Louth,	30	0	0			
S. C. Esq.		2	5	6			
Singer, P. Æ Esq.	Temple-street,	1	2	9			
Stewart, Isaac Esq.	Batchelors'-walk,	11	7	6	1	2	9
Schoales, John Esq	Leeson-street,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Swete, Rev. Benjamin.	Cork,				1	0	0
Scott, James Esq.	Merrion-square,	5	13	9			
Tighe, W. Esq.	Woodstock, Co. Kilkenny,	22	15	0			
Trevor, Alderman Hugh,	Leeson-street,	11	7	6			
Thompson, F. Esq.	Merrion-square,	1	2	9			
Trench, Mrs. F.	ditto,	1	2	9			
Tighe, R. S. Esq.	County Westmeath,	11	7	6			
Turnly, Francis Esq.	Belfast,	20	0	0			
Thorpe, Doctor.	Middle Gardiner-street,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Todhunter, William Esq.	Holles-street,	2	5	6	2	5	6
Weld, Isaac, Esq. Jun.	Dublin,	11	7	6			
Warren, R. B. Esq.	Lower Mount-street,	1	2	9	1	2	9
Warren, Rev. Robert,	Cork,	11	7	6			
Williams, Griffith Esq.	Crampton-court,	1	2	9			
Wicklow, Grand Jury of Spring Assizes, 1813.		11	10	0			

J. Jones, Printer, 40, South Great George's-street.

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