

FIFTH REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF

Irish Education Inquiry.

Dated *London*, 18th May 1827.

(DIOCESAN SCHOOLS.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 June 1827.

THE APPENDIX - - - - - p. 23.

FIFTH REPORT
OF
THE COMMISSIONERS
OF
IRISH EDUCATION INQUIRY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

WE, the undersigned Commissioners, nominated and appointed by a Commission under the Great Seal, bearing date the Fourteenth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, proceed in this our Fifth Report to lay before Your Majesty the state of the **DIOCESAN SCHOOLS** of Ireland, together with such recommendations as we feel it our duty to offer for effecting their improvement.

THE Schools now known in Ireland by the name of The **DIOCESAN SCHOOLS**, derive their origin from an Act passed in the twelfth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, intituled, "An Act for the erection of Free Schools." By this Act it is provided, that there shall be "a Free School within every Diocese of the realm of Ireland, and that the Schoolmaster shall be an Englishman, or of the English birth of Ireland." Under the provisions of this Act, the Masters in the Dioceses of Armagh, Dublin, Meath, and Kildare, were to be appointed by the Archbishops and Bishops respectively, and in all other Dioceses by the Lord Deputy or Governor. The School-house for every Diocese was directed to be built in the principal shire-town of the Diocese, at the costs and charges of the whole Diocese, and by the "device and oversight of the Ordinaries of the Diocese, or of the Vicars-General (*sede vacante*), and the Sheriff of the Shire, and the Lord Deputy or Governor, "was to appoint such yearly pension for the Schoolmaster as he should think convenient, whereof the Ordinaries of every Diocese were to provide the third part, "and the Parsons and other Ecclesiastical Persons of the Diocese were to provide "the remainder," and all Churches, Parsonages, Vicarages, and other Ecclesiastical Livings, which had come by any means to the Queen or her predecessors were to be charged with this payment in whose hands soever they should be.

A statute was passed in the seventh year of William III. which states, that the above Act (for the erection of Free Schools) had failed to produce the desired effect, and therefore proceeds to enact, that the same "should from thenceforth be "strictly observed and put in execution according to the good intent and design "of the same."

It appears that in the reign of George the First, though Schools were kept in most Dioceses, several Dioceses were unprovided with School-houses. To remedy this defect the statute of 12 Geo. 1. c. 9 (Irish), empowered the several Ecclesiastical Dignitaries to grant sites for the Schools in any parts of their Dioceses, without confining them to the shire-towns, and directed that until such ground should be set out the School should be kept "in such convenient place as the Archbishop or Bishop "should

" should be able to procure for a yearly rent or otherwise." And it also empowered the Grand Juries of each County, from time to time, to present reasonable sums towards the building and repairing of the School-houses, to be levied upon the whole County, or such part of it as should be within the particular Diocese in which the School should be placed; and in order to provide for the better payment and support of the Masters, the same statute further enacted that every person, being a beneficed clergyman, bound to contribute to the salary, should pay to the Master at the Annual Diocesan Visitation, his proportion thereof, under pain of sequestration of his benefice.

As presentments to be levied upon portions of Counties were found extremely inconvenient, the Grand Juries were by another Act 29 Geo. 2. cap. 7 (Irish), empowered in all cases to present sums to be levied on the whole of their respective counties for building or repairing the School-houses.

By an Act of 21st and 22d Geo. 3. c. 28 (Irish), it was provided that the Bishop, with the consent of the Patron and Schoolmaster, should be empowered to change the sites of Schools to such other sites as might be granted to the Bishop and his successors for not less than 999 years, at a pepper-corn rent; and the Grand Juries were empowered to present for the building, repairing, and fitting up such Diocesan School-houses; and the Bishops were further empowered, with the consent of the Schoolmasters, to demise the old sites and ground belonging to the Schools, at the best improved rents, to be applied in augmentation of the salaries of the Masters.

The condition of these Schools was the subject of a Report by the Board of Education in Ireland, appointed under the provisions of an Act passed in the 46th year of Geo. III. Their Report was published in 1809, and the Commissioners therein state; that Free Schools had been actually established under the statute of Elizabeth in most, if not all of the Dioceses in Ireland, but that at no time had they appeared to have fully answered the purposes of their institution. The Commissioners added that they had not been able to find any account of these Schools previous to the Restoration, but that it was not probable that they had been regularly kept or usefully conducted. After the Restoration a Commission appears to have been issued by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, directing the Bishops of the several Dioceses to carry the Act of 12 Eliz. into effect, and for that purpose to applot the sums to be paid out of the different Ecclesiastical Livings in each Diocese, for the salary of the Diocesan School-master.

The provisions of the statute of 12th Geo. I, as amended by the 29th Geo. II, above referred to, were stated in that Report to have effected a considerable improvement in the Diocesan Schools, but the Report added that there were several Dioceses still unprovided with proper School-houses, and some without any; and that the general benefit derived from the whole Institution, was far from corresponding with the intention of the Legislature. It appears from an abstract annexed to the Report, that in 1809, out of the 34 Dioceses in Ireland, united into the 22 Sees of the Archbishops and Bishops, there were only ten provided with Diocesan School-houses in tolerable repair. In three other Dioceses the houses were either out of repair, or otherwise insufficient; and the remaining Dioceses were wholly unprovided with School-houses, the Masters of the few schools that were kept in them renting houses for the purpose. In several of the Dioceses there was at the period of the Report no Diocesan School, and in others no effective one: the whole number of effective Schools in all the Dioceses was 13, and the number of scholars did not exceed 380. In the greater part of the Dioceses in which no School was kept there was no contribution from the clergy for the payment of a Master; in some, the salary was actually paid to a person who either kept no School, or one on a different foundation in which the Diocesan was absorbed. In this Report of the Commissioners in 1809, we observe the Diocese of Kilmore is altogether omitted. We do not find that it ever possessed a Diocesan School.

The same Report stated the utter inadequacy of the salaries allotted for the maintenance of the Masters, which in no Diocese exceeded 40 *l.* per annum, and in some was so low as 25 *l.*; a circumstance which it was said would account for the non-existence or discontinuance of Schools, except in situations otherwise advantageous, and where Grammar Schools would therefore be established, and flourish without the aid of an endowment so inconsiderable.

The

The Report proceeded to express the doubts of the Commissioners whether a system should be continued which in its principle appeared to them not altogether equitable; which had never been found efficient in practice; and which operated so partially, that 12 out of 34 Dioceses did in fact not contribute any thing towards its object. The Commissioners further suggested, that instead of requiring a School to be kept in every Diocese, a certain number only should be established in each of the Archbishopal Provinces, to be supported out of the contributions from the several Dioceses in each. They added, that in fixing on the situations for schools, regard should be had principally to the want of proper Grammar Schools in the different districts, and as far as might be, to the continuance of the best of the Diocesan Schools already existing.

To carry the recommendations of the Report into effect an Act of Parliament 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, was passed, (afterwards amended by the 3d Geo. 4, c. 79,) appointing the Lord Primate, the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishops of Dublin and Tuam, the Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, and the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, all for the time being, and also four of the Bishops of Ireland, and four other persons to be named by the Lord Lieutenant, Commissioners for the regulation of the several endowed Schools of public and private foundation in Ireland. The statute confers upon these Commissioners extensive powers for the control and management of such schools, and also for the management of the Diocesan Schools; and with regard to the latter, the Commissioners were empowered, with the consent and approbation of the Lord Lieutenant, by warrant, under hand and seal, to direct and declare that any two or more Dioceses should be erected into one district, and that the Free Schools of such united Dioceses should be consolidated into one Free School, to be thenceforth kept and held in such place within the Diocese as might be so directed, and that after such union made, the Masters of such district Schools should receive the salaries which would have been payable to the Masters of such several Diocesan Schools, if not consolidated, to be received in the like manner, and payable by the same persons, as if no union had been formed. And by the 24th section it was provided that it should be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant, with the advice of the Privy Council, to appoint what stipend, provision, or salary should be paid to the Master of every Diocesan or District School, and what portion or portions should be paid and raised in each Diocese or District.

The Act then proceeded to enact by whom the payments were to be made, and provided that one third of the yearly sums should be paid by the Bishops of the several Dioceses, and that the remaining two thirds should be levied from the parsons, vicars, prebendaries and other ecclesiastical persons of the Diocese, by an equal contribution according to the values of their respective benefices, to be from time to time ascertained by the bishop of the Diocese, with the consent of the Archbishop of the province, and to be enforced, if necessary, by sequestration.

The Act next proceeded to provide for the sites, and the building of the Diocesan and District Schools, by empowering the persons enumerated in the 26th section to grant land, not exceeding two acres, for the site of a District or Diocesan School, and enabling the Commissioners to sell or demise the old sites for the benefit of the Schools, and to exchange the School-lands for others more convenient; and the commissioners were empowered to purchase houses already built, or lands fit for such buildings.

The Act then proceeded to provide the funds for such purposes, and accordingly the 28th section enacted that it should and might be lawful for the Grand Jury of any county in which the Diocesan or District School, or the site appointed for the same should be, to present on the county any sum or sums which they should think proper for purchasing, providing, building or repairing any such School-house, or a dwelling-house for the Master thereof, or any of the offices or appurtenances properly belonging to the same, or for purchasing or procuring a site for the same, not exceeding two plantation acres.

In pursuance of a direction of the 8th section of this Act, the Commissioners have annually made to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland a Report of their proceedings relating both to Schools of public and private foundation, and also to the Diocesan Schools.

In the year 1823 the Commissioners made to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant a special Report on the Diocesan Schools; and the considerations by which they had

been influenced in forming the plan which it proposed, were stated by them in substance as follows :

First, That in fixing on the sites of Diocesan and District Schools due regard should be had to the local situations of other classical Schools of public and private foundation.

Secondly, That Schools for the Dioceses and Districts should be established (so far as might be practicable and consistent with the foregoing principle,) in such of the houses provided for the Diocesan Schools as were in tenantable repair.

And Thirdly, that for the reasons assigned in their former Report on this subject, no consolidation should be made of Schools subjected to the jurisdiction of distinct metropolitans.

The Commissioners then stated their Plan as follows :

First, As to the Schools of the Ecclesiastical

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

THEY recommended that a District School should be formed by the union of the schools of the Dioceses of *Down* and *Dromore*, and that it should be established at *Downpatrick*, where the Diocesan School of *Down* was then kept. Neither of these Dioceses had then any Diocesan School-house, but the School of *Down* was endowed with a few acres of land. The house used at *Downpatrick* was the private property of the Master.

The Commissioners next recommended that the Diocesan School of *Derry* should not be united to any other, a large and commodious School-house having been lately erected within the city of *Londonderry*, and the School receiving aid from the London Society, and from a special grant of the Bishop of *Derry*.

They recommended that the School for the Diocese of *Armagh* should be united to that for the Diocese of *Connor*, and that the School of the district should be fixed at *Ballymena*, in the county of *Antrim*, assigning as the reasons for this arrangement that there was no Diocesan School-house in the Diocese of *Armagh*, and that it was already fully provided with classical schools, namely, two of Royal foundation at *Armagh* and *Dungannon*, one on the foundation of Erasmus Smith at *Drogheda*, and one of private endowment at *Dundalk*.

They recommended that the Diocesan School of *Raphoe*, together with that of the Diocese of *Kilmore*, should be united to the Diocesan School of *Clogher*; this latter School was then established in the town of *Monaghan*, in a house appropriated to that purpose, but much in need of repairs; and it was expected that a new site would be provided in the town of *Monaghan*, for the building of a proper School-house, by the aid of the Grand Jury, and the private donations hereafter to be noticed. The Commissioners added that in neither of the Dioceses of *Raphoe* or *Kilmore* was there any Diocesan School; but that in each there was a classical school of Royal foundation.

They further recommended that the School of the Diocese of *Ardagh* should be united with that of *Meath*, so as to form a District School to be placed in the populous town of *Mullingar*, in the Diocese of *Meath*, and that the School-house of the Diocese of *Ardagh* at *Longford*, and the School-house of the Diocese of *Meath* at *Trim*, should be sold towards founding the District School at *Mullingar*.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

THE Commissioners recommended that as the metropolis is and must of course always be fully provided with classical Schools, the Diocesan School of *Dublin* and *Glandelagh* should be placed at *Wicklow*, the chief town of the county of that name, and that the Diocesan School of *Kildare*, established at *Naas*, in the county of *Kildare*, should not be united with any other School.

They recommended that inasmuch as there was in the Diocese of *Ossory* the great Foundation School or College of *Kilkenny*, the Diocesan School of *Ossory* should be united to that of *Leighlin*, to be held at *Carlow*.

As to *Ferns*, the Diocese being extensive, and there being a sufficient School-house at *Wexford* recently built, and the School being in a flourishing state, they thought that it should remain as a distinct Diocesan School.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

THE Commissioners recommended that the School of the Dioceses of *Cashel* and *Emly* should be kept at *Thurles* in the County of *Tipperary*. That the Schools of the

the Dioceses of *Killaloe* and *Kilfenora* should be united to that of *Limerick*, and should be established in the City of *Limerick*, where there was an old School-house. That there should be a School established for the Dioceses of *Ardfert* and *Aghadoe*, at *Tralee* in the County of *Kerry*. That inasmuch as there were already Foundation Schools at *Waterford* and *Lismore*, the Diocesan School for those Dioceses, in neither of which was there any Diocesan School-house, should be placed at *Dungarvan*.

They further recommended that the Diocesan Schools of *Ross* and *Cloyne* should be united to the School of the Diocese of *Cork*, and be established in the City of *Cork*.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

THE Commissioners were of opinion that a School for the Dioceses of *Killala* and *Achonry* might be properly established at *Ballina* in the County of *Mayo*. That the School of the Diocese of *Tuam*, established in the Town of *Tuam*, should not be united to the School of any other Diocese. That the School of the Diocese of *Clonfert* and *Kilmacduagh* should be fixed at *Loughrea*; and as to the Diocesan School of *Elphin* which was kept in the Town of *Elphin*, with a suitable house and fifteen acres of land, they recommended that it should not be united to any other.

In consequence of these recommendations, and in pursuance of the powers of the before-mentioned Act, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, by notice in the *Dublin Gazette*, April 17th 1824, appointed the following annual salaries to be paid to the several Schoolmasters of the Diocesan and District Schools, recommended in the above Report.

PROVINCE.	DIOCESES.	Salaries appointed.	Proportion payable in each Diocese, where a District School shall be established.
ARMAGH	Armagh - - -	One hundred and twenty pounds - - -	Seventy pounds.
	and Connor - - -		Fifty pounds.
	Down - - -		Forty pounds.
	and Droimore - - -	Ninety pounds - - -	Fifty pounds.
	Meath - - -		Eighty-five pounds.
	and Ardagh - - -	One hundred and thirty pounds - - -	Forty-five pounds.
	Kilmore - - -		Forty-five pounds.
	Raphoe - - -	One hundred and thirty pounds - - -	Thirty pounds.
	Clogher - - -		Fifty-five pounds.
	Derry, sole - - -	One hundred pounds - - -	—
DUBLIN	Dublin - - -	One hundred pounds - - -	Fifty-five pounds.
	and Glandelagh - - -		Forty-five pounds.
	Ossory - - -	One hundred and twenty pounds - - -	Seventy pounds.
	and Leighlin - - -		Fifty pounds.
	Kildare, sole - - -	Seventy pounds - - -	—
	Ferns, sole - - -	Seventy pounds - - -	—
CASHEL	Cashel - - -	One hundred pounds - - -	Seventy pounds.
	and Emly - - -		Thirty Pounds.
	Ardfert - - -	Eighty pounds - - -	—
	and Aghadoe - - -		—
	Limerick - - -	One hundred and fifty pounds - - -	Seventy-five pounds.
	Killaloe - - -		Fifty-five pounds.
	Kilfenora - - -		Twenty pounds.
	Cork - - -	Two hundred pounds - - -	Eighty pounds.
	Cloyne - - -		One hundred pounds.
	Ross - - -		Twenty pounds.
	Waterford - - -	Ninety pounds - - -	Twenty pounds.
	and Lismore - - -		Seventy pounds.
TUAM	Killala - - -	Fifty pounds - - -	Thirty-five pounds.
	and Achonry - - -		Fifteen pounds.
	Clonfert - - -		Twenty-five pounds.
	and Kilmacduagh - - -	Forty pounds - - -	Fifteen pounds.
	Tuam, sole - - -		—
	Elphin, sole - - -	Eighty pounds - - -	—

The same Commissioners of Education in their Annual Report for the year 1824, again brought the Diocesan Schools under the notice of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in the following words :

“ In consequence of the amendment of the Statute of the 53d Geo. 3d by the late Act of His present Majesty's Reign, this Board was enabled to form a scheme for the formation and arrangement of Diocesan and District Schools, and which, after having been submitted to Your Excellency for your approbation, was promulgated by our Warrants on the 6th May 1823 ; and we have annexed to this our Report, a schedule showing at once the whole arrangement in respect of these Schools, with the salaries which have been allocated for the Masters by your Excellency in Council, and their apportionment on the Bishops and Clergy of each Diocese.

“ On the subject of these most useful Establishments we have to observe, that there are no funds in the power of this Board (except what may arise from the sale of the sites of the present Schools) for the purchase or building and outfit of houses for the Masters of the District and Diocesan Schools, and therefore we took the liberty of suggesting an application to the Judges of Assize, requesting them to recommend to the Grand Juries at the Assizes, the propriety of making Presentments on their Counties for such purposes, pursuant to the provisions of the 12th Eliz.—53d Geo. 3d—and of other Statutes made in the Parliament of Ireland. We are not as yet able to report in many instances satisfactory results from these recommendations, several of the Grand Juries appearing unwilling to lay additional burthens on their Counties, and conceiving (whether rightly or not it is not for us to say) that they have a discretionary power of declining to make such Presentments. The Legislature did not impose on the Bishops and Clergy any duty beyond the providing a salary for the Master of the School, and demonstrated a great anxiety that the Grand Juries should perform their duty, by raising funds for the maintenance of the School Establishments, as will particularly appear from the tenth section of the Irish Statute 7 Will. 3, c. 4, which directed that the above-mentioned Act of the 12th Eliz. for the erection and maintenance of Free Schools should be strictly observed and put in execution, and that the Judges in their Circuits, and the Justices at Sessions, should give these Acts in charge to the Grand Juries, and be very circumspect in seeing the same put into due execution.

“ We have to inform Your Excellency that by the liberality of the Dowager Baroness Rossmore (representative of Alexander Cairns, Esq. deceased, who formerly by will left the annual sum of twenty pounds for a Mathematical Teacher in the Town of Monaghan, wherein the District School for the Dioceses of Raphoe, Clogher and Kilmore has been established under the Warrant of our Board, countersigned by Your Excellency) a convenient site for building a new School-house for that District School has been provided. Towards the erection of the edifice her Ladyship has given a donation of 100*l.* in increase of the building-fund which arises from the arrears of the above-mentioned annual sum of 20 *l.* ; (permitted by her Ladyship to be so employed,) the produce of the sale of the old Diocesan School-house, and the Presentment by the Grand Jury of Monaghan of the sum of 500 *l.* to be raised by instalments. A Plan of the intended School-house and offices having been approved by us, we have caused advertisements to be inserted in the Newspapers in Town and Country for Contractors to undertake the Building, and we have executed a Deed of Sale of the old Diocesan School-house of Clogher, in the Town of Monaghan, for the consideration of 500 *l.* which we have caused to be invested in Government Securities as part of the above-mentioned building-fund.

“ His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam having represented the decayed state of the present Diocesan School-house in the town of Tuam, where it has been resolved that the School of the Diocese of Tuam should remain, and having procured the report of an architect of its unfitness for the purposes of a School, and His Grace having offered to grant a piece of ground for the site of a new School-house, we are actively employed on that object, which may be effected when a sufficient fund shall be created by sale of the present building, and by a presentment of the Grand Jury of the County of Galway. which it is hoped will be made at the next assizes, when their attention shall be called to the subject.

“ In

“ In the town of Carlow where the District School of Leighlin and Ossory has been established by the recent arrangement, a change of the site of the School-house has become necessary, chiefly by reason of the improper situation of the old building used as the School-house of the Diocese of Leighlin; and it having been represented to us that a more commodious house, the property of Colonel Rochfort, in a healthful and proper situation in the town of Carlow, and of greater value than the present School-house, would be granted in exchange for it, on the difference in value being paid to Colonel Rochfort, we have intimated our readiness to forward the arrangement, provided the Grand Jury of the County shall previously present, to be raised and paid towards the establishment of the District School, a sum sufficient to pay the amount of such difference in value, and to provide for the outfit and alteration of the house to be so taken in exchange for the District School of Leighlin and Ossory, as we are without funds for such purposes.”

The further progress of the Commissioners in relation to the Diocesan Schools is stated in their next annual Report in the year 1825, in the following manner:

“ We beg leave to advert in the next place to the state of the Diocesan and District Schools referred to by the 53d Geo. 3. cap. 107.

“ We regret to be obliged to report to Your Excellency, that notwithstanding the charges given by the Judges at the several assizes, many of the Grand Juries of Counties in which Schools are to be, or have been established, have (since the making of our warrants of the 6th May 1823), declined to present money for the building and outfit and repairs of the Schools, the Act not being considered imperative on the Grand Juries; and it appears that some of the Grand Juries so declining have been actuated by the belief that a material change is likely to be made in the foundation and sites of the District Schools, in consequence of the appointment of the Commissioners of Education Inquiry.

“ And we beg leave to submit our opinion to Your Excellency, that unless the clause imposing upon Grand Juries the duty of providing for the support and establishment of these Schools, shall have been amended by the Legislature, so as to render it imperative on them to present for such purposes, we entertain no sanguine expectation of aid from the Grand Juries for these most useful classical seminaries.

“ We have to mention, as excepted cases, that the Grand Juries of the Counties of Antrim and Down have presented each 1,000*l.* for the building of the District Schools to be in them respectively erected. The sites of the Schools have been provided with great liberality by Mr. Adair, in the former, and the Lord De Clifford in the latter county; and we have caused our architect to prepare plans of School-houses and offices to afford accommodation suited to the sums presented, which are payable by instalments of 100*l.* a year.

“ The presentment by the County of Monaghan Grand Jury of 500*l.* formerly stated to Your Excellency, forms another of the excepted cases; and we have the satisfaction to state, that by means of that presentment, and the other funds mentioned in our last Report, considerable progress has been made in the building of a suitable house and offices near the town of Monaghan, for the establishment of the School of the District of the Dioceses of Clogher, Kilmore, and Raphoe.

“ With respect to the Diocesan School of Tuam, we do not find that His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam has as yet made any grant of land for the site of the School, as we mentioned to Your Excellency, we expected would have been done, and we have hitherto been unable to procure a proper site from any other person.”

“ No endeavours have been wanting on our part to place the Diocesan and District Schools on a proper foundation, but we have not authority to enforce a compliance with our suggestions.”

The latest steps taken by the same Commissioners with respect to the Diocesan Schools will be found in their next Report, dated 8th April 1826.

“ As to the Diocesan and District Schools, we have to inform Your Excellency, that the same causes which prevented their complete establishment, according to the Proclamation of Your Excellency in Council, still exist. The Grand Juries of
441.

“ the Counties, which contain the sites of the District and Diocesan Schools, partly
 “ from an unwillingness to lay additional burthens on the landholders, but chiefly,
 “ as we can learn, from the apprehension that changes of the sites may be recom-
 “ mended by the Board of Education Inquiry, have declined, except in some few
 “ instances, to present funds to be raised for the establishment of the Schools which
 “ they are invited, but not compelled to do by the 53d Geo. 3. c. 107.

“ We have to report, however, that the House and Offices now building for the
 “ District School established at Monaghan are nearly completed, and will fully
 “ answer the objects proposed by their erection.

“ The Grand Jury of the County of Down having some months since presented
 “ a sum of 1,000 *l.* for building the District School, to be established at Down-
 “ patrick, to be paid by instalments of 100 *l.* a year, we caused advertisements to
 “ be inserted in the public newspapers for contracts to complete the building, but
 “ without effect, the mode of payment of the 1,000 *l.* being objected to; we,
 “ therefore, caused a case to be laid before our counsel for his opinion, whether
 “ under the Act of 58 Geo 3. c. 88, the said sum of 1,000 *l.* could be borrowed
 “ by us from Government, on the credit of the said presentment, and such counsel
 “ being of opinion that it was competent for Government to advance that sum,
 “ in case the Grand Jury of the county of Down should again present it in proper
 “ form, the same has accordingly been at the last assizes again presented in due
 “ form, and we are about to take the proper measures for commencing the building
 “ of the School-house of Downpatrick, a site having been agreed to be granted by
 “ the Right Honourable Lord De Clifford.

“ The statements above made with respect to the School of Downpatrick fully
 “ apply to the District School of the Dioceses of Armagh and Connor, to be
 “ established at Ballymena in the county of Antrim, with this difference only, that
 “ the Grand Jury of Antrim have not as yet presented again in the proper form the sum
 “ of 1,000 *l.* which was before presented for building a School-house at Ballymena,
 “ but we expect that such presentment will be made at the next assizes, as to enable
 “ us to obtain a loan for building the School-house on a site granted by William
 “ Adair, esquire, in the town of Ballymena.

“ With respect to the Diocesan School of Tuam, the house which is in an unfit
 “ situation was (as we noticed in a former report,) occupied at one time by the King’s
 “ troops, and at another by the police establishment, and had become ruinous
 “ during such occupation. We have in vain endeavoured to procure a site for
 “ building a new School-house, it having been our intention to have sold the pre-
 “ sent School-house; and with the produce and aid, if obtained from the Grand
 “ Jury of the county of Galway, to have erected another, His Grace the Archbishop
 “ of Tuam, the proprietor of the soil, having declined to grant a site for the purpose;
 “ and we have been impeded in the sale of the Diocesan School-house by reason
 “ of an ejectment intended, as we are informed by His Grace, to be brought by the
 “ churchwardens of the parish of Tuam for part of the garden of the present School-
 “ house, which we understand has been possessed by the Diocesan Schoolmasters
 “ for a series of years, unless the Master shall give up the possession. We beg leave
 “ again to suggest, that if on inquiry it shall appear to the satisfaction of Your Excel-
 “ lency that the School-house of Tuam has sustained damage in its occupation by
 “ the military or the police, some pecuniary aid should be afforded by the Govern-
 “ ment towards the School establishment, or that the present house should be repaired
 “ at the public expense.”

WE now proceed to state the actual condition of each of the Dioceses with respect
 to its Diocesan School, as we found them on our visits in the year 1824, and the
 two following years, noticing the cases in which the alterations suggested as above
 by the Board of Education have been adopted. We shall, at the same time, submit
 such arrangements as appear to us to be necessary, and state the reasons which
 induce us to propose a plan in some instances different from that recommended, and
 in part acted on by that Board. Their plan proceeded upon the principle of uniting
 the several Diocesan into a smaller number of District Schools, and was adopted
 chiefly on account of the very limited funds hitherto appropriated to the schools of
 the several Dioceses. We have the less difficulty in now suggesting the dissolution
 of some of these unions, and the re-establishment of separate Schools, as it will form
 a part

a part of our recommendation that more efficient means should be provided for their support.

PROVINCE OF ARMAGH.

Archdiocese of Armagh.

THERE does not appear to have ever been a Diocesan School in this Diocese. A school of royal foundation, amply endowed has long existed in the city of Armagh, which has generally been as fully attended as any other endowed classical School in Ireland. The establishment of a Diocesan School in that city is therefore unnecessary, and we recommend that the Diocesan School of this Diocese should be established in the populous town of Newry, part of which is situated in the county of Armagh.

Connor.

This Diocese, which is united to the see of Down, possesses no separate Diocesan School. We have already stated that it was a recommendation of the Board of Education that one should be founded at Ballymena, in the county of Antrim, which is the principal town in the diocese. The Grand Jury of that county have accordingly presented 1,000*l.* and an acre of land has been offered by Mr. Adair in a situation well adapted for the site of a school. No Master has as yet been appointed to receive the annual salary of 120*l.* appointed in the scheme adopted by the Lord Lieutenant for the District School of the united Dioceses of Armagh and Connor.

We consider Ballymena to be a very desirable situation for the Diocesan School of Connor, but we do not think that there is any necessity for consolidating it with the Diocese of Armagh. It appears to us desirable that each Diocese should have its own school, and pay its own Master.

Down.

In this Diocese a Diocesan School has for a considerable time been kept, but no house or land was appropriated for it until very lately, when Lord De Clifford made a grant of about two acres adjoining Downpatrick. The Board of Education has had it in contemplation to erect a School-house upon this land, and the Grand Jury of the county of Down have presented 1,000*l.* for that purpose, to be paid by yearly instalments of 100*l.* The School is kept at present in a house rented by the Master, Mr. Bullick, who is in receipt of the salary of 90*l.* allotted to the District school of the united Dioceses of Down and Dromore.

Mr. Bullick is Curate of the adjoining parish of Inch; his predecessor, Mr. Bell and Mr. Bell's predecessor, Mr. Kennedy, appear to have had a good attendance of scholars. We consider the town of Downpatrick a favourable situation for the establishment of a Diocesan School, and it does not appear to us expedient that the School of any other Diocese should be united to it.

Dromore.

In the town of Dromore a site appears to have been formerly provided from the See Lands for the use of the Diocesan School, but no School-house now exists, the old building having fallen into decay. A Diocesan School had however been kept by several successive Masters for a length of time in houses rented by them for that purpose. In 1821 we find that there were eight scholars, but in 1823 the School had been discontinued. We consider the town of Dromore as a situation extremely well calculated for a Diocesan School, without being united to that of any other Diocese.

Meath.

The School for this Diocese has long been established in the town of Trim, in a very old building forming part of the quadrangle of Saint Mary's Abbey, and which although massive, is not now in good repair. About half an acre of ground nearly in the centre of the town is attached to it. Mr. Hamilton the present Master is the curate of Trim, and rector of the parish of Almoritia, in the same Diocese. He has had no pupils during the last five years.

It has been proposed by the Board of Education that the Diocesan School of Meath at Trim, and the Diocesan School of Ardagh, hitherto held in the populous town of Longford, should both be discontinued and the premises sold, and that in

lieu of those two schools, one should be established at Mullingar, the county town of Westmeath, in the Diocese of Meath. It appears to us, however, that the town of Trim is well entitled to possess an effective Diocesan School, and we therefore consider it a more expedient arrangement that the School for the Diocese of Meath should be continued in that town without being united to any other.

Mr. Hamilton, the Master of the School at Trim, has been appointed to receive the salary of 130 *l.* allotted for the proposed District School at Mullingar. We do not find, however, that any fund for building a School at Mullingar has as yet been provided.

Ardagh.

The Diocesan School of this Diocese was long held in the county town of Longford, a situation extremely favourable for such a purpose. The School-house which stood upon a site of about half a rood of land was never sufficient for its object; and in the year 1823, when the School was discontinued, the house was fast falling into decay; it is at present a mere ruin, and represented by the inhabitants of the adjoining part of the town as a nuisance. The late Master, Mr. Irwin, upon the suppression of this School, was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to the Diocesan School of Tuam. A few years previous to Mr. Irwin's departure from Longford, he had fifteen or sixteen scholars. In the time of Doctor Dowdall, the present Master of the Royal School of Dungannon, who was Master shortly before Mr. Irwin's appointment, the School appears to have been so fully attended that he was obliged to rent the contiguous house for the accommodation of his pupils.

We have already stated that the town of Longford appears to be peculiarly well fitted for such an establishment, and we think it desirable that a School for the Diocese of Ardagh, should be again established in it.

Kilmore.

In this Diocese we find no trace of any Diocesan School having existed; it is the less to be regretted, as a Royal School exists in the county town of Cavan. There is no other town within the limits of the Diocese of Kilmore that appears to afford an eligible situation for a classical School, but within one or two miles of its north-western boundary is situated the populous and important town of Sligo, in which there is no endowed School. We think it extremely desirable that the ecclesiastical contributions of the Diocese of Kilmore should be applied towards the maintenance of a Diocesan School in that town.

Raphoe.

In this Diocese there is no Diocesan School, nor do we find that one ever existed. There is a Royal School in the Town of Raphoe, which renders a Diocesan School there unnecessary. The Towns of Ballyshannon or Donegal in this Diocese would however, either of them, present a situation not unsuited to such an establishment, and we recommend that the Diocesan School shall be held at which ever of these places may be thought most expedient by the Bishop.

Clogher.

The Diocesan School of Clogher appears to have been held in the Town of Monaghan, but no adequate means were adopted for providing a suitable house until the year 1823, when under the arrangement already adverted to in the Report of the Board of Education for 1824, a convenient site was provided. By the sale of the old Diocesan Premises a fund for building was created, and the School-house is now in progress.

The present Master, the Rev. Thomas Mooney, holds the School in a private house. He is in the receipt of the salary of 130 *l.* appointed to be paid to the Master of the District School for the Dioceses of Kilmore, Raphoe and Clogher, which the Board of Education recommended should contribute jointly to the maintenance of a Diocesan School. We think it, however, desirable that there should be separate Schools for each of these Dioceses in the manner we have above recommended.

Derry.

The Diocesan School of this Diocese is kept in a very commodious and handsome building close to the City of Derry. This Building was erected in pursuance of

of an Act of Parliament passed in the 49th year of his late Majesty, cap. 59.—By the recital in this Act it appears that there had been for a series of years a School called a Free School, in the city and county of Londonderry, on a site of ground given by the Society of the Governor and Assistants of the New Plantation of Ulster, in Ireland, and the Lord Bishop of Derry and the Dean and Chapter of Derry, were authorized by the said Act to dispose of the same, and take measures for erecting a new School on a more convenient site. The Act of Parliament appointed the Lord Primate, visitor, and provided for the making of Bye-laws, and for the future regulation and management. The several chartered companies subscribed largely, and annual voluntary contributions from the same parties, together with one of 100 *l.* yearly, given by the Lord Bishop, form the principal support of the School.

The Rev. James Knox was appointed Diocesan Master in 1794, and taught in the old Free School till the present house was opened in 1814. Since this period he has received for himself and assistants certain annual payments from the general funds of the School, in addition to what he receives from the Bishop and Clergy, which on an average of the last three years has been about 50 *l.* per annum.

At the time of our examination in October 1825, there were twenty-two boarders in the house—Forty-nine day scholars, who paid for their instruction, and twenty-three free scholars. The house is capable of holding sixty boarders. In 1825, a regulation was made, that when Mr. Knox should exhibit on his books the names of twenty free scholars he should receive 100 *l.* in addition to his other emoluments. The number of free scholars having for the last three years exceeded twenty, Mr. Knox has during that period received accordingly this increase of salary. The free scholars are furnished gratuitously with books and stationery.

This appears to be one of the best conducted and most useful Schools in Ireland.

PROVINCE OF DUBLIN.

Archdiocese of Dublin.

THERE is not any Diocesan School provided for this Diocese. Considering the number of Seminaries of various descriptions with which the Metropolis abounds; we entirely agree with the Board of Education in thinking that the ecclesiastical contributions of this Diocese should be applied in aid of the contiguous Diocese of Glandelagh, which is united to the See of Dublin, and that the School should be established in the Town of Wicklow.

Glandelagh.

Previous to the arrangement made by the Lord Lieutenant in the year 1824, there was neither School-house nor Schoolmaster provided for this Diocese. The Rev. James Corcoran has since been appointed Master, and is in the receipt of the salary of 100 *l.* appointed for the District School of the united Dioceses of Dublin and Glandelagh. Mr. Corcoran was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant about the year 1818 to a School at Wicklow, known by the name of the Castle School, endowed with about eight acres of land, close to the town, stated to be worth about 40 *l.* per annum. But no School or School-house upon that endowment appears ever to have existed, and the Grand Jury have refused to present a sum of money for building a Diocesan School-house. No house has in fact been provided for either of the Schools to which Mr. Corcoran has been appointed. He receives the emoluments of both, and has in his private house one boarder and four or five day-boys.

Ossory.

There is not at present any Diocesan School in this Diocese. The Reverend Mr. Graves held the appointment as Diocesan Master previous to 1824, but no residence or school-house being provided, he kept the School in a house which he rented in the town of Kilkenny. He had at one time from twenty to twenty-five day-scholars; latterly he had no pupils.

The Board of Education having recommended that the Diocesan School of Ossory should be united to that of Leighlin, and held at Carlow, the Reverend Joseph Jameson, Diocesan Master at Carlow, was in 1824 appointed Master for the District School of the united Dioceses. Although the existence of the

large and flourishing institution of private endowment at Kilkenny, called the College, appears to us a very sufficient reason for not establishing a Diocesan School in that city; yet we think it desirable that separate Schools should be maintained for these two Dioceses. There is not within the Diocese of Ossory any other town except Kilkenny that appears to us proper for such an establishment. But within a few miles of the boundary of the Diocese we find the town of Maryborough in the Queen's county without any endowment for a classical School, and this appears to us to be a desirable situation. Upon the same principle therefore on which we have already recommended the establishment of the Diocesan School of Kilmore in the town of Sligo, we venture to suggest that the ecclesiastical contributions of the Diocese of Ossory should hereafter be applied to the maintenance of a School at Maryborough.

Leighlin.

The School for this Diocese has been held in Carlow as far back as can be traced. The house allotted for the purpose is in a confined situation, close to the Military Hospital, and without sufficient ground for the recreation of the boys. The present Master, Mr. Joseph Jameson, was appointed to it in the year 1810. Under his care the School has increased to upwards of forty boarders, and thirty day-scholars. In the year 1824, Mr. Jameson, as before stated, was appointed also the Diocesan Master of Ossory, and he receives the salary appointed for the District School of the united Dioceses. Mr. Jameson rents a house adjoining to the School-house, for the purpose of increasing the accommodation of his boarders and family; he is also the curate of the town.

We have already recommended that the Diocesan Schools of Ossory and Leighlin should not be united; and we are of opinion that the School for this latter Diocese should be continued at Carlow, separate from any other.

Kildare.

The School of this Diocese has been for a long series of years held in the county town of Naas. The present Master, Mr. Harrison, was appointed in 1809. In 1825, he appears to have had two boarders, and about twenty-four day-boys, but a fever which subsequently occurred appears to have caused the secession of his boarders, and to have reduced the day-boys to fourteen. When he was first appointed he received 40*l.* a year. At present the salary of 70*l.* is apportioned to this School, but the Master states that he has not succeeded in obtaining more than 60*l.*—the remainder, which he conceives ought to have been paid by lay impropiators, has not been received. The School-house, in which the Master resides, has recently had 500*l.* laid out upon it, raised by county presentment, but the building is so old, and was originally so ill constructed, that it is very doubtful whether any repairs would make it sufficient for its purpose. Mr. Harrison is the curate of the adjoining parish of Killishee, within a mile of Naas, and also chaplain and inspector of the Naas Gaol.

Ferns.

The School for this Diocese is kept at Wexford. Mr. Richard Behan was appointed master in 1821, before which time he held a private School in Wexford for several years. The present School-house was built about the year 1801, before which time the School was kept at Enniscorthy. Mr. Behan had at first forty boarders. The number in September 1826, was twenty-six boarders, and thirty-nine day-boys. He receives 70*l.* a year from ecclesiastical contributions. The house has been repaired occasionally by the Master, but the larger repairs have been by presentment of the Grand Jury.

PROVINCE OF CASHEL,

Archdiocese of Cashel.

PRIOR to the year 1813, a Diocesan School appears to have been kept in the city of Cashel, but since that time we do not find evidence of any School being kept, or Master appointed. The Board of Education in their scheme of 1824, have proposed the establishment of a District School for the united Dioceses of Cashel and Emly, in the town of Thurles. His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel,
has

has however expressed his opinion that it should rather be placed in the city of Cashel, in which opinion we beg leave to express our entire concurrence.

Emly.

In this Diocese we do not find that any School has existed. The See of Emly has long been united to that of Cashel, and we agree in the propriety of the arrangement suggested by the Board of Education that this Diocese should, jointly with that of Cashel, contribute to the support of a District School.

Ardfert.

The School for this Diocese was for some years held at Castle Island, in a small house formerly used for a Charter School. No School has been kept for several years. The Board of Education in their scheme have proposed that in future it should be united to the School for the Diocese of Aghadoe, and be established at Tralee, in the propriety of which recommendation we beg leave to express our concurrence.

Aghadoe.

In this Diocese we do not find that any Diocesan School has ever existed. The Board of Education have recommended that it should contribute to the School to be established as above mentioned at Tralee, in which proposal we have already expressed our concurrence. No Master has been appointed to these united Schools.

Limerick.

The Rev. Dr. Willis was appointed Master for the School of this Diocese in March 1812; and in consequence of the proposed union of the Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe and Kilfenora, he received a new appointment in 1823 as Master of the District School of those united Dioceses. He has received the contributions of the clergy of Limerick since the date of his last appointment, but not those from the clergy of the Diocese of Killaloe and Kilfenora. No School-house has been provided. The house which formerly existed in Limerick having fallen into decay, Dr. Willis kept his School in a house which he rented. He formerly had ten boarders and about twenty day scholars, but at present he has no boarders, and only four day scholars. About the year 1816, the Grand Juries for the county and city of Limerick began to create a fund by yearly assessment for building a School-house, which fund, it is supposed, now amounts to about 2,000 *l*. A site for the new School-house on the estate of the Corporation of the City has been approved of by the Bishop of the Diocese, but the title to it has not yet been completed.

Killaloe.

Previous to the union of the Schools of the Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe in 1823, a Diocesan School was kept at Killaloe by the Rev. H. Allen, who had held it for about thirteen years. The number of pupils varied from sixteen to twenty-two. The house in which it was kept was built by the present Lord Bishop of Derry, when Bishop of this Diocese. It consisted of a School-house and Dormitory intended to accommodate twelve boarders. Mr. Allen also rented a dwelling-house contiguous. Mr. Allen left Killaloe for several years, on being appointed to the curacy of a country parish. During his absence there were two successive Masters in the Diocesan School; but while they held it, few scholars appear to have attended. Mr. Allen having given up the curacy returned to Killaloe, when he received a new appointment to the Diocesan School. He found, however, soon after, that the Rev. Dr. Willis, Master of the Diocesan School at Limerick, had received the Lord Lieutenant's appointment as Master of the District School for the united Dioceses. Since that time, Mr. Allen has not received any salary, and he now carries on a School on his own account, having sixteen boarders, and five or six day scholars. We do not see any sufficient reason for discontinuing the Diocesan School at Killaloe; and we beg leave to recommend the continuance of separate Schools for the respective Dioceses of Killaloe and Limerick.

Kilfenora.

We do not find that any Diocesan School has ever been held in this Diocese, nor does it contain any situation in which we should propose one to be established.

We therefore recommend that hereafter it should continue contributory to the Diocesan School at Killaloe.

Cork.

A Diocesan School appears to have been long kept in this Diocese, in a private house provided in the city of Cork from time to time by the Masters. The number of pupils does not appear to have been considerable. In the year 1821 the Rev. George Armstrong, who had held the Diocesan School at Ross for several years, gave up that situation and came to reside at Cork, where he kept School in a house which he rented. He was soon afterwards appointed Master of the Diocesan School of Cork, which had become vacant, and he received 30 *l.* a year in that character. At the time of the projected union of the Dioceses of Ross, Cork, and Cloyne, by the Board of Education in 1823, Mr. Armstrong was appointed Master of the District School for the three united Dioceses, and the Schools of Cloyne and Ross were discontinued. Mr. Armstrong received 200 *l.* a year as salary from the three Dioceses. In the year 1825 he had one hundred and seventeen day-boys, and thirteen boarders; and in 1826 ninety day-boys and seven boarders, and his School was expected still further to decrease in consequence of his having been obliged to remove to a house less conveniently situated; application had been made to the Grand Jury at two different assizes to provide a house for the Diocesan Schoolmaster, but they did not think the Act imperative upon them, and declined to present.

Ross.

This small Diocese has long been united to the See of Cork, but for many years possessed a separate Diocesan School. Like that of Cork, it was held in a private house, and seems to have been respectably attended for many years. At the time of the proposed union of Diocesan Schools into Districts in the year 1823, it was determined, as we have already stated, to suppress this School, and to unite it with that of Cork, to which union the Diocese of Cloyne was also to be added. This arrangement has given great dissatisfaction to the resident gentry and clergy in the vicinity of Ross, and we have received very strong representations from them on the subject. We have examined on the spot several witnesses in relation to the former state of the Ross School, and to the arrangement that has been adopted for its union with Cork. We have inquired also into the probability of a sufficient number of pupils being again collected, if the School should be re-established in Ross; and upon a full review of all the circumstances of this case we have no hesitation in recommending that the proposed union of Cork and Ross and Cloyne should be dissolved, and that the Diocesan School of Ross should be re-established in that town. We feel ourselves the more fortified in the expression of this opinion, as we understand it entirely coincides with the views of the Bishop of Cork, and the late Bishop of Cloyne, who appear not to have concurred in recommending the union.

Cloyne.

A few years prior to the union of the School of this Diocese with that of Cork, there appears to have been a Diocesan School kept in a thatched cabin in the village of Cloyne, but in the year 1822, immediately previous to the union of the Schools, it appears that no pupils attended.

We have already stated, that under the arrangement proposed by the Board of Education, the School of this Diocese was to be suppressed, and the salary transferred to the Diocesan Master of the District School at Cork. It appears, however, to us that there are few Dioceses in Ireland better entitled to the possession of a Diocesan School, or better able to support one than that of Cloyne, and we have no difficulty in assigning the populous and flourishing town of Mallow, nearly in the centre of the Diocese, as the proper situation.

Waterford.

This Diocese does not appear at any time, which we can trace, to have possessed a Diocesan School. We found a large endowed School already in the neighbourhood of the City, called Bishop Foy's Foundation, and we therefore recommend that the contributions of the clergy of this small Diocese should be applied in aid
of

of the District School, which the Board of Education have recommended should be established at Dungarvan, in the contiguous Diocese of Lismore, which has been long united to the See of Waterford.

Lismore.

This Diocese does not appear ever to have possessed a Diocesan School. It has been recommended in the scheme of the Board of Education that a District School for the united Dioceses of Waterford and Lismore should be established in the town of Dungarvan, and in the propriety of that recommendation we entirely concur. There is already an endowed School at Lismore.

PROVINCE OF TUAM.

Archdiocese of Tuam.

Killala.

No Diocesan School appears ever to have existed in this Diocese. The Board of Education in 1823, proposed that for this and the contiguous united Diocese of Achonry, a District School should be established in the town of Ballina. In the propriety of this recommendation we entirely concur; and are satisfied from our inquiries on the spot that Ballina and its vicinity are likely to afford a sufficient number of pupils for the maintenance of a very respectable School.

Achonry.

This Diocese has never possessed a Diocesan School. We have already noticed under the preceding head of Killala the arrangement which has been proposed with respect to this Diocese.

Clonfert.

It was proposed by the Board of Education that this Diocese, which never possessed a Diocesan School, together with the united Diocese of Kilmacduagh should form a District, and contribute to a Diocesan School to be established at Loughrea, in the former Diocese. This appears to us to be an extremely proper arrangement.

Kilmacduagh.

This Diocese has never possessed a Diocesan School; it is too small in extent, and too thinly inhabited to be otherwise than contributory to the Diocese of Clonfert, to which it is united. We have therefore nothing to propose in addition to the arrangement suggested by the Board of Education.

Tuam.

A Diocesan School was long held in this Diocese, and a large house, and nearly half an acre of ground in the centre of the town of Tuam, were appropriated for that purpose. In 1809 a School appears to have been kept, but in 1823, as before stated, the School-house was reported by the Board of Education to have been recently occupied by the police, and antecedently to have been used as a barrack for soldiers during a period of public disturbance. It is now in such a ruinous condition as to be quite unfit for its purpose, and even unfit to be repaired; the situation, however, being close to the Market-square of the town of Tuam, has been represented to us as extremely valuable. It appears, therefore, an advisable arrangement to sell the present premises, and to apply the proceeds in aid of the endowment of the School.

We have already mentioned that the Diocesan School of Ardagh, which was held in the town of Longford, was suppressed in the year 1823, and united with the School for the Diocese of Meath. The Master of the suppressed School of Ardagh was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant in 1825, to the Diocesan School of Tuam, and has transferred his residence during a portion of the year to the School-house of Tuam even in its present ruinous condition. This has been, however, a subject of remonstrance on his part; and it is quite obvious that he cannot possibly have an effective School in the present condition of the house. Few if any boys now attend the School.

Elphin.

In this Diocese there has long been an efficient and creditable Diocesan School maintained in the town of Elphin. The school-house is old, but when visited by us was in very tolerable repair, in which it had been put principally at the private expense of the Master. It has an endowment of about fifteen acres of land contiguous to the town. It is also endowed with the moiety of an estate of about 300 acres of land in the county of Cavan, devised by the will of the Reverend Doctor Hudson, formerly Bishop of Elphin. We learn that this estate is at present held for the term of two lives, under a lease very improvidently made. From what has been stated to us, we think that the circumstances under which this lease was granted may require the consideration of the Attorney-General, and will justify the recommendation, that the estates annexed to Diocesan Schools should, like the estates of the Royal Schools, be vested in the Board of Education in trust for those institutions.

We found in this School four boarders, and about twenty day-boys. Mr. Smith, the present Master, is the curate of Elphin, and Vicar-General of the Diocese.

It may be collected, as the result of the above statement, that under the arrangements suggested by the Board of Education in 1823, but which have not yet been acted upon to any considerable extent, the number of Diocesan Schools would ultimately be eighteen, and established in the following places.

For the Dioceses of -	{	Armagh and Connor - - - -	at Ballymena.
		Down and Dromore - - - -	Downpatrick.
		Meath and Ardagh - - - -	Mullingar.
		Kilmore, Raphoe, and Clogher - - - -	Monaghan.
		Derry - - - -	Londonderry.
For the Dioceses of -	{	Dublin and Glandelagh - - - -	Wicklow.
		Ossory and Leighlin - - - -	Carlow.
		Kildare - - - -	Naas.
		Ferns - - - -	Wexford.
For the Dioceses of -	{	Cashel and Emly - - - -	Thurles.
		Ardfert and Aghadoe - - - -	Tralee.
		Limerick, Killaloe, and Kilfenora - - - -	Limerick.
		Cork, Cloyne, and Ross - - - -	Cork.
		Waterford and Lismore - - - -	Dungarvan.
For the Dioceses of -	{	Killala and Achonry - - - -	Ballina.
		Clonfert and Kilmacduagh - - - -	Loughrea.
		Tuam - - - -	Tuam.
		Elphin - - - -	Elphin.

Upon the plan which we recommend, the number of Diocesan Schools would be twenty-seven. We subjoin a table, pointing out the places at which the Schools would be established, and the counties which would be contributory towards their support.

DIOCESES.		PLACES at which the School is proposed to be established.	COUNTIES CONTRIBUTING.
Province of ARMAGH.	Armagh - - - - at	Newry - - -	Armagh.
	Connor - - - - -	Ballymena - - -	Antrim.
	Down - - - - -	Downpatrick - - -	Down.
	Dromore - - - - -	Dromore - - -	Down.
	Meath - - - - -	Trim - - -	Meath.
	Ardagh - - - - -	Longford - - -	Longford.
	Kilmore - - - - -	Sligo - - -	Sligo.
	Raphoe - - - - -	Ballyshannon or Donegal -	Donegal.
	Clogher - - - - -	Monaghan - - -	Monaghan.
Province of DUBLIN.	Derry - - - - -	Derry - - -	Derry, County at large.
	Dublin and Glandelagh - - -	Wicklow - - -	Wicklow.
	Ossory - - - - -	Maryborough - - -	Queen's County.
	Leighlin - - - - -	Carlow - - -	Carlow.
	Kildare - - - - -	Naas - - -	Kildare.
Province of CASHEL.	Ferns - - - - -	Wexford - - -	Wexford.
	Cashel and Emly - - -	Cashel - - -	Tipperary.
	Ardfert and Aghadoe - - -	Tralee - - -	Kerry.
	Limerick - - - - -	Limerick - - -	Limerick, County at large.
	Killaloe and Kilfenora - - -	Killaloe - - -	Clare.
	Cork - - - - -	Cork - - -	Cork City.
	Ross - - - - -	Ross - - -	Cork, County at large.
	Cloyne - - - - -	Mallow - - -	Cork, County at large.
Province of TUAM.	Waterford and Lismore - - -	Dungarvan - - -	Waterford, County at large.
	Killala and Achonry - - -	Ballina - - -	Mayo.
	Clonfert and Kilmacduagh - - -	Loughrea - - -	Galway, County at large.
	Tuam - - - - -	Tuam - - -	Galway, County at large.
	Elphin - - - - -	Elphin - - -	Roscommon.

It will be observed, that in the list of counties contributing to the support of Schools there are three of the most opulent and extensive, namely, Down, Cork and Galway, which contribute to the support of more than one School, and that some other counties are exempted. This however is not an inequality consequent on our plan, but results from the general law upon the subject.

The arrangement here suggested will give nine Schools more than the plan proposed by the Board of Education, and will distribute the several Schools more equally throughout the kingdom. We anticipate, however, a much greater proportionate increase in the number of scholars than of Schools, under the regulations which we shall now beg leave to propose, and which we should hope would be found effectual to ensure to each School, upon an average of years, a full and respectable attendance.

We consider it extremely doubtful, whether any attempt to establish permanent School-houses, appropriated for the Diocesan Schools, will be found ultimately successful. It has been seen that every endeavour hitherto made for that purpose from the reign of Elizabeth has failed, and that in fact there never were so few, either of Schools or scholars, as at the present moment.

Although the several statutes referred to in the early part of the Report have imposed upon the counties the burden of providing school-houses, yet there has

been a general disinclination on the part of Grand Juries to present large sums of money for establishments, of the efficiency of which they have entertained some distrust, and from which, in many cases, owing to the situation of the Schools in a remote part of the Diocese, their own counties were not likely to receive any benefit. Besides, even where the first expenses of purchasing sites and erecting School-houses have been provided, the system of annual presentment for repairs forms a subject of continued and mutual dissatisfaction between the Grand Juries and the Masters. It occurs to us, that it would be a much more desirable principle that the Schoolmasters should be left to provide themselves with suitable School-houses and dwelling-houses, taking upon themselves all charges for repairs, and every other expense; and that the counties in which the Schools are held should provide, in addition to the salary paid by the Clergy, a sum proportionate to the real efficiency of the School, such efficiency to be estimated by the average number of boarders and day-scholars that had resorted to it in the twelve months preceding each Assizes, at which the Grand Jury should be called upon to present.

In every one of the towns in which we propose Diocesan Schools to be established, we are convinced that houses may be easily obtained, sufficiently adapted for such a purpose; and the Grand Juries could not reasonably object to present a moderate annual charge in support of a classical School within their respective counties, if it were secured, as a part of the system, that such charge should never be imposed, until by the attendance of pupils it should be proved that the School was efficient, and had obtained public approbation.

With these views we propose that the counties should be exonerated from all expenses for procuring sites, or building or repairing School-houses, and that in lieu thereof an annual presentment should be made of 3*l.* in respect of every day-boy, and 4*l.* in respect of every boarder, as allowance to the Master over and above the sum paid by such Scholars; the payment, however, in no case to exceed the sum of 100*l.* in any one year, and such scholars only to be reckoned as are exclusive of the family of the Master, and who have been fairly in attendance upon the School for twelve months preceding the Master's application for a presentment. This amount of presentment from the Grand Jury, varying, as it necessarily must, according to the success of the School, added to the salary derived from the ecclesiastical contributions of the Diocese (which according to the scale proposed will vary from 40*l.* to 120*l.* per annum) would probably be found sufficient to ensure a supply of Masters well qualified for the important duties of their office.

It would, in our view, form a necessary part of such arrangement, that every Master should be removable whenever from any cause his School should become inefficient, and be no longer attended. Instances have occurred in which there is reason to believe that Masters of Diocesan Schools have even discouraged the attendance of pupils, being content with the salary, however small, when connected with the further advantage of a dispensation from ecclesiastical residence, which has hitherto been considered as attaching to their situation.

In order to provide for the future against the recurrence of such instances, we propose, that if any Master should for two successive years be unable to obtain more than 40*l.* per annum from the Grand Jury, (an amount which even fourteen day-boys or ten boarders would ensure) another person should be appointed Diocesan Master in his stead.

We make this recommendation under an impression that there are very few, if any, of those towns now proposed by us for the sites of Diocesan Schools, that would not at present be found to supply at least from twenty to thirty pupils, desirous of attending a good Latin School, as day-scholars, independently of the number which might be expected to resort to such a School as boarders.

In the very few instances where adequate and proper buildings are now provided for the Diocesan Schools, we propose to leave it optional for the Masters, with the consent of the Bishop, either to establish themselves in those houses, or to provide others. We should however recommend, that a Master, who should live in the Diocesan School-house, should be bound to keep it in repair at his own expense, and be also subject in respect of such house to the law of dilapidations, as it now affects ecclesiastical persons.

With

With respect to such Diocesan Houses as may be deemed by the Masters unfit for their occupation, it may be observed that the sites of those buildings, being generally in populous county towns, might be sold advantageously; and in such cases we recommend that the produce of the sale should be invested in the public funds, and the interest applied by the Board of Education for the use of the School.

It appears to us, for the same reason, that if upon any future occasion the Master should prefer to rent a house, and deem it inexpedient to take possession of a Diocesan School-house, which had been occupied by his predecessor, the Board of Education should in like manner proceed to the sale of such house, and the produce be applied as above mentioned.

We recommend that the rates payable by the several Dioceses shall be those appointed by the Lord Lieutenant in the Dublin Gazette of the 17th April 1824, with the difference merely of their being henceforward payable in British currency.

We recommend further, that the bishop shall in all instances certify to his registrar under his episcopal seal, the proportions payable by each of the Clergy of his Diocese, according to the provisions of the Act 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, and that such certificate, or an examined copy of it, shall be evidence in any court of justice.

We recommend also, that the Diocesan Master should in every case be subject to the Bishop's visitation, and that it shall be a part of the duty of the Bishop's Registrar to collect the several contributions from the Bishop and Clergy, and to pay them to the Master at the visitation, being allowed 5 per cent. upon all sums actually collected before the close of the visitation. Any Clergyman neglecting to pay on such occasion to be liable to payment of double the amount, to be recovered by civil bill, if the Diocesan Master should be under the necessity of resorting to that proceeding.

The Master, we think, should be obliged to state to the Bishop, or his Vicar-general, at each annual visitation, the amount of the allowances which he shall have received from the Grand Jury for each of the two years preceding; and if in any instance it should appear that two successive years have elapsed without his having become entitled to 40 *l.* in either year, the Bishop should certify to the Lord-Lieutenant in the case of schools to which His Excellency has the right of appointment, that a vacancy has occurred; but if the right of nomination be in the Bishop himself, that he should immediately proceed to appoint another Master. We propose, that a similar duty of communicating the fact of a vacancy to the patron shall be imposed upon the Grand Jury, and that in case no claim for a presentment, founded on the Master's affidavit, shall be made and allowed for two years successively, amounting as above suggested to 40 *l.* at the least in one year, they should certify the fact of the vacancy having occurred through a letter from their Secretary to the Patron.

As to those few Diocesan Schools which have small landed estates annexed to them, we have already stated it as a very necessary regulation, that no lease of such lands shall hereafter be made, except by the Board of Education, and that it would be proper that all such estates should be vested in that Board.

We recommend that in future, no Diocesan Master should have any cure of souls, or be employed as curate, apprehending that it is scarcely possible for him adequately to discharge the duties of the two offices. We do not propose, however, that this regulation should extend to any of the present Masters.

It appears to us desirable that the Bishop of the Diocese should in all cases be empowered to fix or approve of the rates of payment both for boarders and day-boys, as it has been a subject of complaint, that in some instances terms have been proposed by the Masters intentionally so high as to deter pupils from attending. In cases where the Bishop shall not otherwise arrange it, we think that the sum of thirty-two guineas for Boarders, and six guineas for day-boys, which is the average of the rates paid in respectable classical Schools in Ireland, may be charged by the Masters of Diocesan Schools. We do not propose that the Masters should be obliged to receive any pupils gratuitously.

We have already stated that the Grand Juries of some counties have, within these few years, raised certain sums of money for the purpose of purchasing sites

for School-houses, or for the expense of building them. If the plan suggested by us shall be adopted, it will be proper that those sums should be placed at the disposal of the Grand Juries of such counties to be re-presented by them for any other county purposes.

It appears to us that it would be a regulation likely to be attended with beneficial consequences, if the Board of Education should appoint an Inspector annually to visit the Diocesan Schools, and report their state to the Board, and that the Board should give their directions generally with respect to the system of instruction, and the regulations to be observed. We think further, that every Diocesan School should be subjected to their visitation, as well as to that of the several Bishops, and that the Masters should be liable to be removed by the authority of the Board, if circumstances should require it.

The dissolution of the union of Schools lately adopted, will necessarily occasion a diminution of the salaries recently allotted to some of the Masters; but when it is considered that they have not enjoyed this advantage above one or two years, and that we are now recommending superior emoluments for all Masters disposed to execute their duties, and which will more than counterbalance any loss resulting from the adoption of another part of our plan, we trust that this circumstance will not be found an objection of any weight to the scheme which we propose.

T. FRANKLAND LEWIS	(L. S.)
J. LESLIE FOSTER	(L. S.)
W. GRANT	(L. S.)
J. GLASSFORD	(L. S.)
A. R. BLAKE	(L. S.)

London, 18th May, 1827.

APPENDIX.

N^o 1.—LIST of all the present Diocesan Schoolmasters of Ireland receiving Salary; together with the number of Scholars in their respective Schools on the 25th of March 1826.

2.—LIST of the Diocesan or District Schools, the Appointment of Masters to which has not been notified to the Board of Education in Ireland.

A LIST of all the present Diocesan Schoolmasters of IRELAND receiving Salary ; together with the Number of Scholars in their respective Schools, on the 25th of March 1826.

PROVINCE.	DIOCESE, OR DISTRICT.	PLACE designated by the Lord Lieutenant's Warrant for the School.	MASTER.	Number of Boarders.	Number of Day Scholars.	OBSERVATIONS.
ARMAGH	Derry - - - - -	Londonderry -	Rev. James Knox - -	32	59	27 free.
	Down and Dromore - - -	Downpatrick -	Rev. Alexander Bullick -	6	4	- - No house.
	Raphoe, Kilmore and Clogher -	Monaghan -	Rev. Thomas Mooney -	2	3	- - School-house nearly finished.
	Ardagh and Meath - - -	Mullingar -	Rev. James Hamilton - -	-	-	- - { There being no house provided by the County Westmeath Grand Jury, the master remains at Trim.
DUBLIN	Dublin and Glandelagh - - -	Wicklow - -	Rev. James Corcoran -	3	6	- - No house provided.
	Ferns - - - - -	Wexford - -	Mr. Richard Behan -	31	41	—
	Kildare - - - - -	Naas - -	Rev. J. Harrison - -	1	20	—
	Leighlin and Ossory - - -	Carlow - -	Rev. Joseph Jameson -	44	41	4 free An old house, in an improper site for a school.
CASHEL	Cork, Ross and Cloyne - - -	Cork - -	Rev. George Armstrong -	7	90	12 free No house.
	Limerick, Killaloe, and Kilfenora -	Limerick -	Rev. Dr. Willis - -	-	4	- - No house.
TUAM	Tuam - - - - -	Tuam - -	Rev. George Irwin - -	-	-	- - Site of old house condemned, and house ruinous.
	Elphin - - - - -	Elphin - -	Rev. William Smith -	5	23	16 free
				131	291	59 free.

January 18th, 1827.

Cham. W. Walker,