

BLIND, &c. COMMISSION.

R E P O R T

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

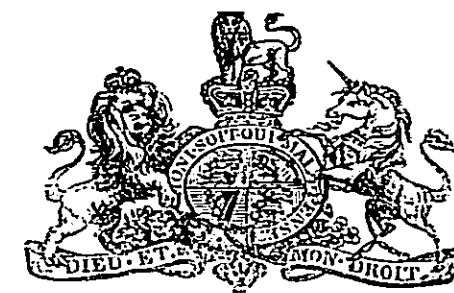
ON

THE BLIND, THE DEAF AND DUMB, &c.,

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W. ; or
ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, 6 NORTH BRIDGE, EDINBURGH ; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1889.

[C.—5781.] *Price 1s. 1d.*

NAMES OF COMMISSIONERS

WITH THE

DATES OF THEIR APPOINTMENTS.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G. THE RIGHT HON. AND RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON, D.D. | } | 28th July 1885. | } Revoked by subsequent Commission of 20th January 1886. | | |
| THE RIGHT HON. ANTHONY JOHN MUNDELLA, M.P. FRANCES JOSEPH CAMPBELL, Esq., LL.D. THOMAS RHODES ARMITAGE, Esq., M.D. WILLIAM TINDAL ROBERTSON, Esq., M.D. | | | | | |
| ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD SOUTHWELL SOTHEBY, K.C.B. EDMUND CHARLES JOHNSON, Esq. | | | | } | 13th August 1885. |
| WILLIAM AUCHINCLOSS ARROL, Esq. ROBERT McDONNELL, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. (since deceased) | | | | | |
| THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD EGERTON OF TATTON. THE RIGHT HON. AND RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON, D.D. | } | 20th January 1886. | | | |
| THE RIGHT HON. SIR LYON PLAYFAIR, K.C.B., LL.D., M.P. THE RIGHT HON. ANTHONY JOHN MUNDELLA, M.P. THE RIGHT HON. SIR HENRY JOHN SELWIN-IBBETSON, BART., M.P. ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD SOUTHWELL SOTHEBY, K.C.B. BENJAMIN ST. JOHN ACKERS, Esq., BARRISTER-AT-LAW. THOMAS RHODES ARMITAGE, Esq., M.D. WILLIAM AUCHINCLOSS ARROL, Esq. FRANCES JOSEPH CAMPBELL, Esq., LL.D. EDMUND CHARLES JOHNSON, Esq. ROBERT McDONNELL, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. (since deceased). WILLIAM TINDAL ROBERTSON, Esq., M.D. (now SIR TINDAL ROBERTSON, M.P.) | | | | | |
| CHARLES FEW, Esq. (since deceased). WILLIAM WOODALL, Esq., M.P. | | | | } | 4th March 1886. |
| THE REV. WILLIAM BLOMEFIELD SLEIGHT, M.A. | | | | | |
| THE REV. CHARLES MANSFIELD OWEN, M.A. | | | | | 28th June 1886. |
| LIONEL VAN OVEN, Esq. | | | | | 11th June 1887. |
| CHARLES EDWARD DRUMMOND BLACK, Esq. (SECRETARY). | | | | 28th July 1885. | |

COMMISSIONS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith :

To Our right trusty and right entirely beloved Cousin and Councillor, Hugh Lupus, Duke of Westminster, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Chairman, the Right Reverend Father in God Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Frederick Bishop of London, Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Anthony John Mundella, Our trusty and well-beloved Frances Joseph Campbell, Esquire, Doctor of Laws, Our trusty and well-beloved Thomas Rhodes Armitage, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine, and Our trusty and well-beloved William Tindal Robertson, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine; Greeting!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to investigate and report upon the condition of the Blind in Our United Kingdom, the various systems of education of the blind, elementary, technical, and professional, at home and abroad, and the existing institutions for that purpose, the employment open to and suitable for the blind, and the means by which education may be extended so as to increase the number of blind persons qualified for such employment :

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these presents authorise and appoint you the said Hugh Lupus, Duke of Westminster, Frederick Bishop of London, Anthony John Mundella, Frances Joseph Campbell, Thomas Rhodes Armitage, and William Tindal Robertson to be Our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid :

And for the better effecting the purposes of this Our Commission, We do by these presents give and grant unto you, or any three or more of you, full power to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission, and also to call for, have access to, and examine all such books, documents, registers, and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject; and to inquire of, and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever :

And We do further by these presents authorise and empower you, or any three or more of you to visit and personally inspect such places in Our United Kingdom or abroad as you may deem expedient for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid :

And We do by these presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment :

And We further ordain that you, or any three or more of you, have liberty to report your proceedings under this Our Commission from time to time, if you shall judge it expedient so to do :

And Our further will and pleasure is that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to Us under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three or more of you, your opinion upon the several matters herein submitted for your consideration :

And for the purpose of aiding you in such matters, We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved Charles Edward Drummond Black, Esquire, to be Secretary to this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the twenty-eighth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, in the forty-ninth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
RICHARD ASSHETON CROSS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith :

To Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Edward Southwell Sotheby, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Admiral on the Retired List of Our Navy, and Our trusty and well-beloved Edmund Charles Johnson, Esquire, Greeting !

Whereas We did by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, bearing date the twenty-eighth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, appoint Our Right trusty and Right entirely beloved Cousin and Councillor, Hugh Lupus, Duke of Westminster, Knight of Our most Noble Order of the Garter, together with the several gentlemen therein mentioned, or any three or more of them, to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the condition of the Blind :

Now, know ye, that We reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, discretion, and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these Presents authorise and appoint you the said Sir Edward Southwell Sotheby, and Edmund Charles Johnson to be Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid, in addition to and together with the Commissioners whom We have already appointed by the before-mentioned Royal Warrant.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the thirteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, in the forty-ninth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
RICHARD ASSHETON CROSS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith :

To Our trusty and well-beloved William Auchincloss Arrol, Esquire, and Our trusty and well-beloved Robert McDonnell, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine, Greeting !

Whereas We did by warrants under Our Royal Sign Manual, bearing date respectively the twenty-eighth day of July and the thirteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, appoint Our Right trusty and Right entirely beloved Cousin and Councillor, Hugh Lupus, Duke of Westminster, Knight of Our most Noble Order of the Garter, together with the several gentlemen therein respectively mentioned, or any three or more of them, to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the condition of the Blind :

Now, know ye, that We reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, discretion, and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these Presents authorise and appoint you the said William Auchincloss Arrol and Robert McDonnell to be Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid, in addition to and together with the Commissioners whom We have already appointed.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the thirtieth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, in the forty-ninth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
RICHARD ASSHETON CROSS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith :

To Our right trusty and well-beloved Wilbraham, Baron Egerton, one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England; the Right Reverend Father in God, Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Frederick Bishop of London; Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Sir Lyon Playfair, Doctor of Laws, Knight Commander of Our most Honourable Order of the Bath; Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Anthony John Mundella; Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Sir Henry John Selwin-Ibbetson, Baronet, Second Church Estates Commissioner; Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Edward Southwell Sotheby, Knight Commander of Our most Honourable Order of the Bath, Admiral on the Retired List of Our Navy; Our trusty and well-beloved Benjamin St. John Ackers, Esquire, Barrister-at-law; Our trusty and well-beloved Thomas Rhodes Armitage, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine; Our trusty and well-beloved William Auchincloss Arrol, Esquire; Our trusty and well-beloved Francis Joseph Campbell, Esquire, Doctor of Laws; Our trusty and well-beloved Edmund Charles Johnson, Esquire; Our trusty and well-beloved Robert McDonnell, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine; and Our trusty and well-beloved William Tindal Robertson, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine; Greeting !

Whereas We did by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual bearing date the twenty-eighth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, and by subsequent Warrants authorise and appoint certain noblemen and gentlemen therein respectively named, or any three or more of them, to be Our Commissioners to investigate and report upon the condition of the Blind in our United Kingdom, the various systems of education of the Blind, elementary, technical, and professional, at home and abroad, and the existing institutions for that purpose; the employment open to and suitable for the blind, and the means by which education may be extended so as to increase the number of blind persons qualified for such employment :

Now know ye that We have revoked and determined, and do by these presents revoke and determine the said several Warrants and every matter and thing therein contained :

And whereas we have deemed it expedient that a new Commission should issue for the purposes specified in such Warrant of the twenty-eighth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; and that the scope of the said Commission should be enlarged; and that the Commissioners to be nominated for the purposes aforesaid should be authorised and appointed to investigate and report similarly upon the condition and education of the Deaf and Dumb, as well as such other cases as from special circumstances would seem to require exceptional methods of education :

Further know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability and discretion, have appointed, and do by these presents nominate, constitute, and appoint you, the said Wilbraham, Baron Egerton; Frederick, Bishop of London; Sir Lyon Playfair; Anthony John Mundella; Sir Henry John Selwin-Ibbetson; Sir Edward Southwell Sotheby; Benjamin St. John Ackers; Thomas Rhodes Armitage; William Auchincloss Arrol; Frances Joseph Campbell; Edmund Charles Johnson; Robert M'Donnell; and William Tindal Robertson, to be Our Commissioners to investigate and report upon the condition of the Blind in Our United Kingdom, the various systems of education of the Blind, elementary, technical, and professional, at home and abroad, and the existing institutions for that purpose; the employment open to and suitable for the Blind, and the means by which education may be extended so as to increase the number of blind persons qualified for such employment; and also to investigate and report similarly upon the condition and education of the Deaf and Dumb as well as such other cases as from special circumstances would seem to require exceptional methods of education:

And for the better effecting the purposes of this Our Commission We do by these presents give and grant unto you, or any five or more of you, full power to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission; and also to call for, have access to, and examine, all such books, documents, registers, and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject; and to inquire of any concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever:

And we do further by these presents authorise and empower you, or any five or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places in Our United Kingdom or abroad as you may deem expedient for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid:

And We do by these presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our Commissioners, or any five or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment.

And We further ordain that you, or any five or more of you, have liberty to report your proceedings under this Our Commission from time to time, if you shall judge it expedient so to do.

And Our further will and pleasure is that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to Us, under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any five or more of you, your opinion upon the several matters herein submitted for your consideration.

And for the purpose of aiding you in such matters, We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved Charles Edward Drummond Black, Esquire, to be Secretary to this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the twentieth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, in the forty-ninth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's command,
RICHARD ASSHETON CROSS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith:

To Our trusty and well-beloved Charles Few, Esquire, and Our trusty and well-beloved William Woodall, Esquire; Greeting!

Whereas We did by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, dated the twentieth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, appoint our right trusty and well-beloved Wilbraham, Baron Egerton, one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, together with the several Gentlemen therein mentioned, or any five or more of them, to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the condition and education of the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb, and others:

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, discretion, and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these presents authorise and appoint you, the said Charles Few and William Woodall, to be Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid, in addition to and together with the Commissioners whom We have already appointed.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, in the forty-ninth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith:

To Our trusty and well-beloved William Blomefield Sleight, Clerk, Master of Arts, Greeting!

Whereas We did by Warrants under Our Royal Sign Manual, bearing date respectively the twentieth day of January and the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, appoint Our right trusty and well-beloved Wilbraham, Baron Egerton, one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, together with the several gentlemen therein respectively mentioned, or any five or more of them, to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the condition and education of the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb, and others:

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, discretion, and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these presents authorise and appoint you, the said William Blomefield Sleight, to be a Commissioner for the purpose aforesaid, in addition to and together with the Commissioners whom We have already appointed.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, in the forty-ninth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith:

To Our trusty and well-beloved Charles Mansfield Owen, Clerk, Master of Arts, Greeting!

Whereas We did by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, bearing date the twentieth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and by subsequent Warrants appoint Our right trusty and well-beloved Wilbraham, Baron Egerton, one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, together with the several gentlemen therein-named, or any five or more of them, to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the condition and education of the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb, and others:

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, discretion, and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these Presents authorise and appoint you, the said Charles Mansfield Owen to be a Commissioner for the purpose aforesaid, in addition to and together with the Commissioners whom We have already appointed.

Given at our Court at Saint James's, the twenty-eighth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, in the fiftieth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

VICTORIA, R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith:

To Our trusty and well-beloved Lionel Van Oven, Esquire, Greeting!

Whereas We did by Warrants under Our Royal Sign Manual, bearing date respectively the twentieth day of January, the fourth day of March, the twenty-seventh day of April, and the twenty-eighth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, appoint Our right trusty and well-beloved Wilbraham, Baron Egerton, one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, together with the several gentlemen therein respectively mentioned, or any five or more of them, to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the condition and education of the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb, and others:

And whereas one of Our Commissioners so appointed, namely, Charles Few, Esquire, has since deceased:

Now know ye, that We, reposing great confidence in you, do by these Presents appoint you, the said Lionel Van Oven, to be one of Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid in the room of the said Charles Few, deceased, in addition to, and together with the other Commissioners whom We have already appointed.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the eleventh day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, in the fiftieth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
HENRY MATTHEWS.

TABLE OF HEADS.

| | Paragraph |
|---|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION. | |
| REPORT | 1 |
| Preliminary Remarks | 6 |
| BLIND | 13 |
| Accuracy of the Census | 14 |
| General Condition | 17 |
| Causes of Blindness and Remedial Suggestions | 20 |
| State of the Law | 30 |
| Classification of Blind | 32 |
| I.—Education of the Blind under 21 | 35 |
| A.—In Day Schools | 41 |
| B.—In Boarding Schools | 50 |
| Technical Instruction of the Blind, when it should Commence | 53 |
| II.—Adult Blind | 70 |
| Occupations of the Adult Blind | 74 |
| Condition | 87 |
| Higher Education of the Blind | 90 |
| Gardner's Trust for Blind | 99 |
| Comparison of the Work of the Blind with that of Seeing Persons | 104 |
| Suggestions for Improvement of the Condition of the Industrial Blind | 108 |
| Saxon (<i>Fürsorge</i>) System | 118 |
| III.—The Aged Blind | 124 |
| Pensions | 146 |
| Blind in their Private Homes | 162 |
| Societies in Aid of the Blind | 163 |
| Types | 170 |
| Course of Instruction to the Blind | 191 |
| Teachers in Schools | 193 |
| Should they be "Blind"? | 196 |
| Management of Institutions | 204 |
| Cost of Maintenance in Institutions | 209 |
| Election of Candidates | 211 |
| Gymnasias and Physical Exercises | 212 |
| State Inspection | 217 |
| Proposals for State Aid | 220 |
| Recommendations | 240 |
| Industrial Training | 245 |
| Endowments | 248 |
| Pensions | 254 |
| Pensions—Further Suggestions | 256 |
| Saxon System | 260 |
| Higher or Secondary School | 262 |
| Blind in Workhouses | 263 |
| Teachers | 264 |
| Statistics | 265 |
| Miscellaneous Suggestions | 266 |
| DEAF AND DUMB: | |
| Census | 267 |
| Classification of the Deaf | 283 |
| Causes of Deafness | 293 |
| Congenital Deafness | 295 |
| Education of the Deaf—Preliminary Remarks | 315 |
| History of the Education of the Deaf and Dumb | 319 |
| Present State of Education | 324 |
| School Board in London | 326 |
| " the Provinces | 330 |
| Guardians of the Poor and Education of Deaf Mutes | 331 |
| Special Teaching Required | 335 |
| I.—Institutions | 338 |
| II.—Day Schools | 343 |
| Age of Entry and Duration of School Life | 353 |
| Course of Instruction | 356 |
| Course of Study and Industrial Training on the Continent and in the United States | 365 |
| Apprenticeship and Employment on leaving Institutions | 372 |
| Systems of Teaching—Preliminary Remarks | 381 |
| (1). The Sign and Manual System | 386 |
| (2). The Oral System | 404 |
| (3). The combined System | 429 |
| Visible Speech | 447 |
| Comparison of the Three Systems | 449 |
| Higher Instruction for Deaf and Dumb | 493 |
| Training Colleges | 504 |

| | Paragraph |
|--|-----------|
| Teachers | 516 |
| State Aid | 529 |
| Proposals for State Aid | 532 |
| No. 1.—Grants for Education of Deaf and Dumb Children on a Higher Scale than are given for Attendance in Public Elementary Schools | 532 |
| No. 2.—A grant in aid of the Education and Maintenance of a Deaf and Dumb Child in an Institution, or for Boarding out, and the Grant to come through the School Authority, and not through the Board of Guardians | 536 |
| No. 3.—Grants to Training Colleges for Teachers of the Deaf and Dumb | 542 |
| Inspection | 544 |
| Miscellaneous Remarks | 551 |
| Time of Entry | 556 |
| Should there be a Mixture of Sexes in the Schools? | 559 |
| Gymnasia | 571 |
| Statistics | 572 |
| Medical Inspection | 578 |
| Association of Deaf and Dumb with Blind | 581 |
| Blind Deaf-mutes | 583 |
| Organisation of Institutions | 587 |
| Religious Instruction | 592 |
| Head Masters | 597 |
| Missions and Aid Societies for Adult Deaf and Dumb | 598 |
| Literature and Press | 612 |
| Conferences | 617 |
| Summary of Recommendations | 620 |
| IDIOTS AND IMBECILES | 621 |
| Total number | 623 |
| State of the Law | 626 |
| Character of the Class of Imbeciles | 646 |
| Congenital and Non-Congenital Cases | 654 |
| Causes of Idiocy | 655 |
| How far Preventible or Capable of Diminution? | 658 |
| Improvement or Education of Imbeciles | 660 |
| Age of Entry | 679 |
| Occupations | 681 |
| Separate Schools | 681 |
| Difficulty of Compulsion as regards Educational Conditions | 682 |
| State Aid to Imbecile Institutions | 694 |
| Cost of Inmates at Asylums | 696 |
| Inspection | 697 |
| Classification | 701 |
| Supervision after Leaving Institution | 705 |
| Feeble-minded Children | 709 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | |
| SCOTLAND: | |
| State of the Law | 725 |
| BLIND: | |
| Census | 726 |
| Institutions | 729 |
| Industrial Training | 730 |
| Parochial-Boards, &c. | 732 |
| Adult Blind | 733 |
| Endowments | 735 |
| Missions, &c. | 735 |
| DEAF AND DUMB: | |
| Census | 738 |
| Institutions | 741 |
| School Boards | 743 |
| Adult Deaf and Dumb | 744 |
| IMBECILES: | |
| State of the Law | 745 |
| Institutions | 748 |
| IRELAND: | |
| State of the Law | 756 |
| Institutions or Day Schools | 759 |
| State Aid in Ireland | 776 |
| Adult Blind | 786 |
| Aged and Infirm Blind | 790 |
| Deaf and Dumb | 799 |
| Schemes for Institutions | 803 |
| Idiots and Imbeciles | 806 |
| Major Trench's Commission | 819 |
| Recommendations | 832 |
| ISLE OF MAN. | 834 |
| CHANNEL ISLANDS | 840 |

REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON

THE BLIND, THE DEAF AND DUMB, &c.,

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM.

INTRODUCTION.

The original Commission was issued on the 21st July 1885, to the Duke of Westminster (Chairman), the Bishop of London, the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., Dr. Campbell, Dr. Armitage, and Dr. Tindal Robertson. Its terms of reference were to investigate and report upon the condition of the Blind in the United Kingdom, the various systems of education of the blind, elementary, technical and professional, at home and abroad, and the existing institutions for that purpose, the employments open to, and suitable for the blind and the means by which education may be extended so as to increase the number of blind persons qualified for such employments.

On the 13th of August, Admiral Sir E. S. Sotheby and Mr. Edmund C. Johnson; and on the 30th October Mr. W. A. Arrol and Dr. R. McDonnell, F.R.S., were added to the above Commission.

On the 20th January 1886 a fresh Commission was issued in lieu of the above. Its terms of reference were extended by the inclusion of the deaf and dumb and of such other cases as from special circumstances would seem to require exceptional methods of education. Lord Egerton of Tatton was appointed Chairman in the place of the Duke of Westminster, resigned, and the following new members were added to the Commission, viz., the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., M.P., the Right Hon. Sir Henry J. Selwin-Ibbetson, Bart., M.P., and Mr. B. St. John Ackers. The following gentlemen were subsequently appointed as Commissioners: on the 4th March 1886, Mr. Charles Few and Mr. William Woodall, M.P.; on the 27th April 1886, the Rev. W. B. Sleight; on the 28th June 1886, the Rev. C. M. Owen; and on the 11th June 1887, Mr. Lionel Van Oven.

We have to deplore the death of two of our colleagues during the course of the inquiry. Mr. Charles Few, who died on the 4th April 1887, had assisted regularly, and with great diligence, in our deliberations for a little over a year. More recently the death of Dr. McDonnell, F.R.S., has removed one of our most esteemed and valued colleagues. Dr. McDonnell, besides rendering great help during our general investigations, had spared no pains in obtaining and laying before us valuable information relative to all the branches of our inquiry in Ireland. We have every reason to believe that the Report met with his concurrence: his final suggestions and remarks were received a few days previously to his sudden death on the 6th May 1889.