

The establishments in connexion with the Roman Catholic, Scottish Prebyterian, Wesleyan and Baptist communions are included in these returns; but the alterations are not noticed, as the returns have not been regularly received, and from the number of mixed marriages, it would be impossible to depend on the relative proportions given of each denomination.

EDUCATION.

In the legislative session of 1845, an Act was passed for amending the charter of King's College, which, with a further Act passed in the session of the present year, are under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. No alteration has yet been made in the foundation or in the statutes of the College; but the College Council is at present engaged, on the suggestion of the Bishop, as Visitor of the College, in considering the practicability of revising them to advantage. These suggestions relate to the enlarging the range of studies in the College, augmenting its resources, and extending its usefulness. The subject of education has engaged the attention of the Legislature in the two last sessions; but I regret that the recommendation of the Inspectors of Schools, in favour of the establishment of a model and training school, has not led to any provision being made for such an institution.

Besides the grammar-school attached to King's College, and supported out of the endowment, there are six grammar-schools and 507 parish-schools under license, and to which a public contribution is made. There is no system of instruction prescribed. The qualifications of the parochial teachers, are generally very limited; they are subject to an examination by a Board of Education in each county, on whose certificate they are licensed. These licenses are to teach in the parish where they are employed, and are only transferred on certificate of conduct from the trustees of schools in the parish, and, when practicable, from a clergyman or minister of the congregation to which the children or a majority of them belong. The appointment of inspectors, and the establishment of a training-school, and by means of it of other model-schools in the several counties, I consider to be necessary for the improvement of the system, and the correction of its acknowledged defects; and I hope, for the sake of the rising generation, that provision will be made for these in the next session of the Legislature.

EXCHANGES; MONIES, WEIGHTS, and MEASURES.

It is much to be regretted that a general revision of the monetary system of the colonies should not have been effected by Parliament. The continuance of nominal currencies, having reference to no acknowledged standard, and originating in the English denominations given to Spanish coins no longer current, but which circulated in the colonies on their first settlement, is an anomaly which was corrected in the United States after their separation by establishing a dollar currency, divisible into cents. The establishment of British sterling as the money of account, as a general measure, would be attended with great advantage to the commercial classes, and tend to simplify transactions with the United Kingdom and also with the United States. It may be objectionable to make gold the standard of the colonies, where silver for the most part circulates; and by a slight alteration in the value of the English copper coins, reducing the value of the halfpenny to the value of 1-20th part of a shilling, 1-50th of a half-crown, and 1-100th of a crown-piece, calculations would be as much facilitated as they are in the United States, by the substitution of dollars and cents. The difference between the provincial currency and sterling is 11 1-9th per cent. The amount of bank paper in circulation in 1845 is returned at £225,000 currency. The amount returned in 1840 and 1841 was £350,000. In 1842, owing to commercial embarrassment and the decline of credit, it fell to £110,000, in 1843 to £72,300, and 1844 the amount was £80,000.

The banking system in the province is not on a satisfactory footing; and it is to be regretted that the proposal for establishing a provincial bank was not entertained by the Legislature, and that none of the banks now established, afford any accommodation to the agricultural classes. As before observed, farmers, unable to obtain cash credits or other advances, have not only been restricted in extending their operations depending on hired labour, but in remote districts are discouraged from seeking markets for their produce, when they are often reduced to barter.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

It will be observed that there has been a large increase of imports in the last year, consequent upon augmented exports, chiefly of timber and deals, to Great Britain, and the demand for supplies for the lumbering population. By the bounties granted to the fisheries, some encouragement has been given to the export of cured fish. It will be seen that the number of ships which entered the ports in 1845 amounted to 3,175, the aggregate tonnage of which were 457,120, giving employment to 20,890 seamen. The number which cleared outwards was 3,121, of 486,889 tons, and employing 21,550 seamen.

AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural returns are so imperfect as not to call for any particular observation. The price of imported supplies in the present year will be diminished by the reduction of the duties on wheat.

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND MINERALS.

The encouragement given to the erection of water-mills has led to the establishment of a great number throughout the province, for the sawing of lumber and grinding wheat.

Ship-building is carried on to a considerable extent at some ports.

Some mining operations are in progress for the supply of manganese, a mineral which abounds in various parts of the province.

Hitherto, from want of capital, no effective undertaking has been engaged in for rendering the extensive coal-fields productive; but it is hoped that the introduction of railroads, which will traverse them, may afford a means of accomplishing this desirable object.