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Whitehall, January 16, 1868.

THE Queen has been pleased to issue a Commission under the Great Seal to the effect following :—

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 well-beloved cousin Edward James, Earl of Powis; Our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin Edwin Richard Windham, Earl of Dunraven and Mount Earl, Knight of Our Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick; The Right Reverend Father in God Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Samuel, Bishop of Meath; Our right trusty and well-beloved Robert, Baron Clonbrock; Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Michael Morris, Fourth Justice of Our Court of Common Pleas, in that part of Our said United Kingdom called Ireland; Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Robert Kane, Knight; Our trusty and well-beloved William Brooke, Esquire, one of the Masters of Our High Court of Chancery, in that part of Our said United Kingdom called Ireland; Our trusty and well-beloved David Wilson, Doctor in Divinity; Our trusty and well-beloved Benjamin Morgan Cowie, Bachelor in Divinity, one of Our Inspectors of Schools; Our trusty and well-beloved James Arthur Dease, Esquire; Our trusty and well-beloved James Gibson, Esquire; Our trusty and well-beloved Scott Nasmyth Stokes, Esquire, one of Our Inspectors of Schools; Our trusty and well-beloved William Kirby Sullivan, Esquire, Professor of Chemistry in the Royal College of Science for Ireland; and Our trusty and well-beloved Lawrence Waldron, Esquire, greeting:

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should issue to inquire into the nature and extent of the instruction afforded by the several Institutions established in Ireland, and maintained either in whole or in part from the Public Funds, or by Private Individuals, Voluntary Societies or Subscribers, or Religious Orders, for the purpose of Elementary or Primary Education; to enquire also into the practical working of the system of National Education in Ireland; to ascertain whether any and what Rules now in force in the Schools under the management of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland may be altered or repealed with advantage to the Public; and whether any and what Regulations may be established in their stead with respect to

such Schools, and to Report as to the measures which can be adopted for extending more generally to Our People in Ireland the benefits of such education.

Now, know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorized and appointed you, and by these Presents authorize and appoint you the said Edward James, Earl of Powis, Edwin Richard Windham, Earl of Dunraven and Mount Earl, Samuel, Bishop of Meath, Robert, Baron Clonbrock, Michael Morris, Sir Robert Kane, William Brooke, David Wilson, Benjamin Morgan Cowie, James Arthur Dease, James Gibson, Scott Nasmyth Stokes, William Kirby Sullivan, and Lawrence Waldron, to be Our Commissioners, to inquire into the nature, character, and extent of the instruction afforded by the several institutions now existing in Ireland, and maintained in whole or in part by the Public Funds, by Private Individuals, or by Voluntary Societies or Subscribers, or Religious Orders, for the purpose of Elementary or Primary Education, and especially to inquire into the constitution and practical working of the Board of National Education in Ireland, and also to inquire and report how far the said National Board has fulfilled the objects for which it was established, and the causes or reasons why certain Societies and Patrons have been unwilling to place their Schools in connection with its system, and also to inquire and report concerning that part of the said National System which relates to Model Schools, how far the same is capable of any and what improvement, and also to inquire and report as to the deficiency which is alleged to exist of Trained Teachers in the class of schools called non-vested, and how such deficiency, if such shall appear, may be best supplied, and also how far the Rules of the said National Board with regard to Religious Teaching could with safety be modified, so as to extend more widely the benefits of the system. And further to inquire and report whether any beneficial change could be effected in reference to the salaries and mode of payment of Teachers employed in National Schools, and also whether any improvement can be effected in the constitution of the Board with the view to a more satisfactory administration of its affairs.

And for the better enabling you to carry these Our Royal intentions into effect, We, do, by these presents, give and grant to you, or any three or more of you, full power and authority to call