

FRIDAY, DEC. 1.

**EDUCATION BILLS.**—Lord BROUGHAM presented his two Bills on the subject of general education, and the better management of charities, observing that the object of his measure would be, not to force, but to help—not to supplant, but to aid—not to controul, but to operate. His Lordship addressed the House at considerable length, and with great force of language. His plan does not differ materially from the one proposed last year. He proposed the establishment of a department, which might be called a Board of Education. The Board to consist of two Ministers of the Crown instead of three, as was proposed last session; & to these Crown Ministers would be added three life Commissioners (removable only on address of the two Houses), which would be a security against too great an interference upon the part of Government. Where there existed in any place too great a preponderance of Churchmen or Dissenters, it would be open to the Minister of the Crown, acting in conjunction with the Board, to withdraw the schools from the influence of such majority. In parishes where the grant was not sufficient, power would be given to levy a school-rate. All persons would possess the education qualification who were rated in any way, and had resided twelve months within the district. The Board would have the power of enrolling, by an act of their own, all members of mechanics' institutions, all scientific associations, all literary societies, and all societies for education for all classes. There would be no compulsion, no uniformity of operation, and with this single exception, that the reading of the whole of the Holy Scriptures is to be imperative (the children of Jews and Roman Catholics having liberty to absent themselves while the Scriptures are read, if their parents desire it), the nature of the instruction itself is to be optional. No part of the machinery of the Poor-law Amendment Act would, his Lordship thought, be available to his education plan; for it was well known that the Boards of Guardians were over-worked, and in many cases refused to act. He concluded by moving that the Bills be read a first time.—The Earl of WINCHILSEA expressed great satisfaction at finding that religion was positively included in the plan of the Noble Lord, but he feared that it was too complicated to be capable of adoption.—The Bills were each read a first time.—Adjourned.