

NONCONFORMISTS AND THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS COMMISSION.—The Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Endowed Schools Act (1869) sat yesterday week, under the presidency of the Right Hon. W. E. Forster.—Mr. Joseph Craven, of Cheriton, near Bradford, a member of the governing body of Thornton Grammar School, was examined, and in reply to Mr. Illingworth said that under present circumstances it was impossible for Dissenters to have a fair and reasonable representation in the body of Governors of the schools.—Mr. Waddington, one of the governing body of Mirfield School, West Yorkshire, said he was a member of the Congregational body, and had been elected governor by the ratepayers. There was a contest at the election; the question raised being that there should be on the governing body a full and fair representation of the Nonconformists. In Mirfield there were twelve Nonconformist places of worship and only four churches. The scheme was generally satisfactory; but one thing Nonconformists desired to see altered—namely, the large proportion of Churchmen to Dissenters in the co-optative section of the governing body. There was no personal objection to any of the governors, who were all highly respectable gentlemen; but there was great dissatisfaction among the Nonconformists of Mirfield that so few of their body had a share in the government of the school.—Mr. Jones, Principal of the Independent College at Bala, North Wales, deposed that on the Bala Board there were six representative and six co-optative governors—the latter being appointed for life. In the population of the district there were five Nonconformists to one Churchmen, and yet the majority of the governing body must, in all probability, be Churchmen, because the co-optatives were appointed for life and the vacancies would probably be filled up by Churchmen. They had plenty of Nonconformists in the district fit to go upon the board, and quite equal to those appointed.