

as true, the facts being that, not only are there several Inspectors under the Act and a large number of the teachers who are Roman Catholics, but it is also true that a very large number of Roman Catholic children are being taught in the common schools. Your petitioners would therefore humbly pray your honourable House to maintain intact the present free, secular, and compulsory clauses of the Education Act, and not allow any alteration therein to be made upon representations that are manifestly untrue, and which your petitioners are assured can be so proven should your honourable House decide to secure a return showing the facts of the case. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NOTE.—The following additional petitions have been received since the bringing up of the report: Inhabitants of New Zealand, in favour of present system, 9 petitions, containing 1,060 signatures.

STATISTICAL RETURN showing Population, Number of Scholars at the different Schools, Religious Denominations, and Number of Public and Private Schools in the Colony.

1. POPULATION of New Zealand, April, 1881, under and over twenty-one years of age, exclusive of Chinese and Maoris (Census Volume, page 64) :—

	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Under twenty-one years	258,560	129,833	128,727
Over twenty-one years	226,369	134,777	91,592
Totals	484,929	264,610	220,319

2. Population of New Zealand, 31st March, 1883 (exclusive of Chinese and Maoris), 517,129 persons.

3. Number of scholars at the different schools, for the fourth quarter of 1882 :—

	Persons.	Males.	Females.
At public schools	87,179	45,082	42,097
At superior schools (aided by Government) ...	1,899	1,327	572
At private schools	10,051	4,147	5,904
At industrial schools and orphanages ...	1,113	629	484
Totals	100,242	51,185	49,057

4. Numbers and proportions per cent. of the population of New Zealand, belonging to different religious denominations, as shown by the census of April, 1881 (Page 218) :—

	Persons.	Proportions per cent.
Episcopalians	203,333	41.50
Presbyterians	113,108	23.08
Methodists	46,657	9.53
Other Protestants	30,873	6.30
Catholics	69,039	14.09
Other denominations—		
Latter-day Saints	271	.06
Jews	1,536	.31
Mahometans	7	...
Pagans	4,936	1.01
Others	237	.05
Of no denomination, unspecified, or "objected to state"	19,936	4.07
Total population	489,933*	100.00

5. Number of public and private schools in the colony during the fourth quarter of 1882: Public schools, 911; superior aided schools, 17; private schools, 262; industrial schools and orphanages, 10: total, 1,200.

30th July, 1883.

WM. R. E. BROWN.

* Including 4,936 pagans, principally Chinese; or 5,004 Chinese, principally pagans.