

would, I am sure have been most profitable to read them in full, but time will not permit, and I shall have to confine myself to the most pertinent portions, leaving it to you to say whether in the main they bear out my contentions or not. The writers are men who either are teaching, or have taught English literature in our schools, and who, most of them, either do at present take or have in the past taken an active part in the work of religious education.

The following interesting letters have been sent to Mr. Wright on the subject of his paper:—

From C. S. Kerr, Classical Master Woodstock Collegiate Institute.

“The Scripture knowledge of pupils attending our Secondary Schools is very meagre. I am judging now from my experience in teaching English literature, of which I used to teach considerable. Biblical allusions and occasional allusions seemed to reveal a great lack of real knowledge of the Bible. . . . We have used the International Lessons here for a long time. I believe they are perhaps as good as can be found for intermediate grades, though for primary and senior classes there might be something better. . . . One of the great weaknesses in Sunday Schools is the poor material available for teachers. I am not speaking of teachers in my school, for we have an exceptionally intelligent and well read body of teachers, but this fact has been mentioned by many with whom I have spoken. Then there are several other points, such as memorization, home study, etc., in which great improvement might be made. . . . If the Bible could be taught in our Secondary Schools we certainly could have better results. There are

hindrances to this, however, which seem insurmountable.”

From J. E. Wetherell, B.A., Principal of the Strathroy Collegiate Institute.

“The ignorance of Scriptures among the pupils of our Secondary Schools is deplorable. Only this week this ignorance was illustrated in my class of Form III. (thirty pupils). In ‘Evangeline’ only one pupil could explain the allusion in line 107, ‘touch the hem of his garment,’ and only one the allusion in line 153, ‘as Jacob of old with the angel.’ Twenty of these thirty pupils are, or have recently been, Sunday School students. This is a sufficient commentary on the efficacy of the present means of Biblical instruction. . . . I have often felt that I should like to have half an hour each week in every class for a study of the Bible *as literature*.”

John Jeffries, B.A., English Master, Peterboro’ Collegiate Institute.

“My experience in both Sunday School and High School work warrants me in saying that our young people are strikingly lacking in Scriptural knowledge. I have been especially impressed by this in teaching literature when I have found pupils generally unable to deal at all satisfactorily with Biblical references. I believe there will be no appreciable improvement in this respect until the churches come to feel a duty in the matter and respond to it. There is a feeling among our young men and women, and it does not exist without reason, that the Sunday School is a *children’s* school. The reasons for this are several in number. How often superintendents themselves, in the presence of the entire school, address them as children. There is an age at which even boys and girls do not like to be dubbed children. The