

THE BIBLE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. G. W. ROSS, MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Sir: In your official capacity you have introduced into our public schools a so-called Temperance Text Book, concerning the use of which you say "it is not optional," and that "school authorities are not at liberty" to use any other text book than this which you have been pleased to select for them.

I only speak in this letter the mind of thousands of Christians in Ontario when I say you have very far overstepped the limits of your authority by such action, and have shown an amount of arbitrary presumption which cannot be tolerated in this country of religious freedom.

We are Christians and can only believe in and practise that kind of temperance which we have been taught by the Word of God, and by our Lord Jesus Christ, which temperance is not total abstinence from what you are pleased to call alcoholic drinks, but is the fermenting of all the bodily appetites and passions to the law of Christ—the keeping of the body under, and bringing it into subjection to the will of God.

The spirit of your book we therefore consider contains falsehood, unscriptural as it professes to teach temperance, whereas its teacher is total abstinence. As far as I am able to know the vast difference in meaning between the world's total abstinence and Christian temperance.

Your book must be a failure in attempting to teach temperance, because it is lacking in those Christian motives and divine sanctions which alone can lead a soul to the love of God, and to the love of man, and lead us to the love of our fellow-men; and that is what He who fed the hungry multitudes in the wilderness, said is His, and not a something called nature, who says nothing.

We regard your book as an unscriptural and unadvisable interference with our religious faith, and with the faith in which we depend on God to teach us, and we have expressed our objection to the nature and extent of Christian temperance. The wisdom, the goodness, and the holiness of Christ our Saviour are all contained in his words, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are沉重压倒ed, and I will give you rest." And we shall not allow you, or any other man to teach our children in school, either with book or without book, opinion with opinion, or reasonings with reasonings, name, "Children, who believe what is contained in your book will be little, if any, respect for their Lord Jesus as He is revealed in the Holy Scriptures."

Every well-qualified science of temperance, so far as it concerns the temperate use of alcoholic drinks, we submit should in this case be left to the discretion of the various authorities, and by the experience of all who practice Christian temperance.

You book contradicts the Word of God, as it is written, "I command you, even to the post of destruction, not to drink wine, for it will bring destruction to the nation and the kingdom of God." But for the consecrated cup of the Lord in this holy sacrament as though it were the cup of devils. Instead of bringing before them the main principles of temperance, and the example of St. Peter to teach them and help them to practice the exalted virtue of temperance, you bring before them the infidel scientific professors of the day, who evidently think themselves wiser than Christ, and quite capable of improving upon our Saviour's doctrine of temperance as given in the Gospels. His Church began to preach the gospel of temperance when Christ began. As for the temperance of the rising race if they have no better teacher than the author of your poor book.

It was for the same reasons, and others similar to them, that the Bible Temperance League was formed some time ago. It has made no public demonstration, but has been quietly at work, winning over many a woman who approves of it and willing to act on the following resolutions being virtually a member of it.

Respectfully yours,

1. That the Bible, as a text book in our public schools, is quite sufficient to teach our children the true principles of temperance, and warn them against the danger, the sin and the great evils of intemperance.

2. That we should allow any book of man's composition to take the place of the Bible in teaching our children the name and duty of God, and the duties of man. If attempts are being made to introduce into our public schools books on temperance, we shall neither purchase it for our children nor allow them to use it, as we do not believe in what it contains. We object to the book, not only on account of the extra expense of its purchase, but also on account of its being also, and chiefly, because, it does not teach true Christian temperance, it is opposed to the Word of God, the Bible. It is opposed to wine. Its tendency is to make our children drunkards, and to do away with the goodness of Christ our Saviour, and to make them despise him. This is what we earnestly desire and pray for those to be true temperance teachers.

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