

Sir, in answer to the above suggestion you replied that Dr. Nobel had made no provision in his will for giving a prize for theology. But, Sir, an essay based on the above suggestion would not deal with, or bring up, the question of theology (Theos, God; logos, science). which is usually interpreted at the present day as discussion of creeds and dogmas. An American Court has ruled that the Bible could be read in the schools as it is itself an unsectarian book, but people make creeds and dogmas out of it. Also about 80 per cent. of the Bible is of a secular nature, dealing as it does with our duty to our fellowmen; in fact, nine of the Ten Commandments are of a secular character, and Christ's teachings were mainly of a humanitarian nature.

In the past the Church thought it had a monopoly of the Bible. each stressing its own sectarianism, which made the Book unpopular. A renaissance seems to be coming in the more extended reading of the Bible: even the leading rationalists and evolutionists have declared emphatically on the use of the Bible in the schools as a classic and for its moral teachings. (See, "Bible and Religious Instruction" in the index of each of the following rationalistic books:- Haeckel - "The Riddle of the Universe"; Huxley's essay on School Boards; and Leckie's "Democracy and Liberty"; Fairchild-Osborn's "Evolution", and Marvin's "Life of Tolstoy.")

You may wonder why I suggest as above seeing that the Bible is read in most of the schools of Europe; but the Bible has never been read in the schools of Russia, with the exception of the New Testament, owing to the opposition of the Greek Church - so Tolstoy said. And to-day the Communists keep the Bible out of the schools, largely because of their hatred of the Greek Church. France will not allow any Scriptural instruction in the schools, though Mussolini has placed Scripture instruction on the syllabus of the Italian schools, and Italy had been without Scriptural instruction in her schools for fifty years.

I have visited Western Canada, the Western States of the United States of America and Australia, and have found that the Bible was not generally read daily in the State schools of these States and Provinces, largely owing to apathy, and, being new countries, the people seem to be more interested in schemes for the development of their respective countries than in anything else. One Canadian has remarked that "the resources of a country will not make a great nation but the high character of its people will." But, as a Colonial, I say: "How can you form character without teaching morals and you cannot teach morals effectively without reference to the Bible." If you try to teach morals without appeal to the Bible, the pupil is apt to ask: "What is your authority for telling me this, or that?" (So a New Zealand barrister expressed himself.)