

In this country we were made to feel with peculiar force the application of this general principle. The school system, for instance, was based upon it. It was upon the ground that each was interested in the intelligence and education of all, that the law imposed upon the people of Canada, whenever a majority so willed it, a heavy burden of taxation for the purpose of maintaining a common school system. There might be, and were, very great differences of opinion as to the value of the school system as it exists, but there was, and could be, none as to the general principle upon which it was based. Many persons felt that it lacked the most important element of a sound educational system, the religious element. (Cheers.) That to accomplish the object which is sought to be attained by it, the general diffusion of intelligence, and the prevention of crime, religion and education should go together; and that the mere training of the mind, while the heart is left uninfluenced by the principles of our holy Christianity, might be but to systematize crime, and render more skilful the criminal. (Cheers.) He (Mr. White) believed that the great mass of the Christian people of Canada, whatever difference of opinion might exist among them as to the practicability of applying their views to the Common School system, deeply deplored the absence in it of a general provision for a sound religious training *pari passu* with the mere cultivation of the mind; and they deplored it because of their full recognition of the principle that they are deeply interested in the character of the people by whom they are surrounded, and in an especial degree of the generation that is growing up around them, and that will be contemporaneous, in the great life-battle, with their own children. The recognition of this defect in the great educational machinery of the country, imposed upon them the duty of supplementing it by the ministrations of the Church, and thus was the duty of maintaining the ministrations of the gospel, and of providing for their general diffusion through every part of the Province, most clearly established. (Cheers.) As inducements to the performance of this great duty we had the promises of God's word, the history of the world, and our own individual experience: "If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them, then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield her fruit, and I will give you peace in the land, and ye shall lie down and none shall make you afraid: for I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant among you, and be your God, and ye shall be my people. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee. It shall come to pass if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all the commandments which I command thee this day; that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth; and all these blessings shall come on thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field; blessed shall be the fruit of thy body and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine and the flocks of thy sheep. All the people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the Name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of thee. The Lord shall