

(1) No person shall require any pupil in any Public school to read or study in or from any religious book, or to join in any exercise of devotion or religion objected to by his or her parents or guardians.

(2) Pupils shall be allowed to receive such religious instruction as their guardians or parents may desire, according to any regulations provided for the organization, government and discipline of Public schools

No change would be required here, except perhaps to make the provisions apply to High schools also, which seem to be omitted from *The High schools Act, 1896*.

The Regulations of the Educational Department, however, refer to both Public and High schools. In accordance with the powers conferred upon the Department by statute, these regulations might easily be modified to permit of such instruction as we have been advocating. They might run something like this :

97. Every Public and High school shall be opened with prayer, and with a Bible lesson of fifteen or twenty minutes' duration, and shall be closed with prayer. When a teacher claims to have conscientious scruples in regard to opening or closing the school as herein prescribed, he shall notify the Trustees to that effect in writing ; and it shall be the duty of the Trustees to make such provision in the premises as they may deem expedient.

98. The Scriptures shall be taught daily and systematically by the methods usual in the teaching of literature, history and ethics. Such courses shall be taken up in the various forms as the Education Department may from time to time prescribe.

99. No pupil shall be required to take part in any religious exercise or in Bible study objected to in

writing by his parents or guardians ; and in order to the observance of this regulation, the teacher, before commencing such exercise or lesson, is to allow a short interval to elapse, during which the children of any who have signified their objection in writing may retire. If in virtue of the right to be absent from these exercises, any pupil does not enter the school-room till the close of the time allowed for this instruction, such absence shall not be treated as an offence against the rules of the school.

100. The clergy of any denomination, or their authorized representatives, shall have the right to give religious instruction to the pupils of their own church, in each school-house, at least once a week, after the hour of closing the school in the afternoon ; and if the clergy of more than one denomination apply to give religious instruction in the same school-house, the Board of Trustees shall decide on what day of the week the school house shall be at the disposal of the clergymen of any denomination, at the time above stated. But it shall be lawful for the Board of Trustees to allow a clergyman of any denomination, or his authorized representative, to give religious instruction to the pupils of his own church, providing it be not during the regular hours of the school. Emblems of a denominational character shall not be exhibited in a Public or High school during regular hours, nor shall instruction in distinctively denominational tenets be given ; nor shall the Scripture lesson be treated in such a way as to give offence to the known sectarian opinions of any member of the class, or of his or her parents or guardians.

V. The teaching of Scripture as history, literature and morals is feasible in our High schools.

I found it difficult, if not impos-