

Anglo-Saxon Biblical translation about which we know anything is connected with the name of the "venerable Bede," who has been called "the brightest light in Western Europe in the eighth century."

This man stands at the head of the long procession of translators of the Bible into English, which reaches from the eighth to the twentieth century. The story of his translation of the gospel of St. John when he was so decrepit with old age, and so wasted away by disease, of the excellent Latin he wrote, but had to dictate to his "fair-haired Anglo-Saxon scribe" is one of the most deeply pathetic in all the history of our English Bible, and shows us the devotion of these early scholars to the task of translating the Scriptures into their mother-tongue, for the benefit of their fellow-countrymen. His devotion to his task and his eagerness to complete it before he died, are touchingly described by his disciple, Cuthbert, in a letter to his fellow-reader, Cuthwin, at the time of their master's death.

"During these days," Cuthbert writes, "he labored to compose two works worthy to be remembered, besides the lessons we had from him. . . . He translated the gospel of St. John as far as the words. 'But what are these among so many' (chap. 6: 9), into our own tongue for the benefit of the Church, and some collections out of the book of notes of Bishop Isidorus, saying, 'I will not have my pupils read a falsehood, nor labor therein without profit after my death.' When the Tuesday before the Ascension of our Lord came, he began to suffer still more in his breath, and a small swelling appeared in his feet; but he passed all the time he had left carefully, and now and then, among other things, said, 'Go on quickly, I know not how long I shall hold out, and whether my Maker will not soon take me away.' But to us he seemed to know very well the time of his departure; and so he spent the night awake in thanksgiving; and when the morning appeared he ordered us to write quickly what he had begun. There was one of us with him, who said, 'Most dear master, may I still one chapter wanting, do you think it troublesome to be asked any more questions.' He answered, 'It is no trouble. Take you pen and write quickly.' Having said much more, he passed the day joyfully till the evening, and the boy above-mentioned said, 'The sentence is now written.' He replied, 'It is well you have said the truth. It is ended. Receive my head into your hands, for it is a great satisfaction to me to sit facing my holy place where I was wont to pray, that I may also siting call upon my Father.' And thus, on the pavement of his little cell, saying, 'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,' when he had named the Holy Ghost he breathed his last, and so departed to the heavenly kingdom."

Such is the pathetic story, and it gives one an idea of how the early Christian Fathers of our English race prized their Scriptures. Of Bede's translation, unfortunately no trace is left. It probably was lost when the country was laid waste by the Danes. But the part this devout man had in translating the Latin Bible into the vernacular language of England in the eighth century is admitted by all Biblical scholars.

Departments of Government

Topic for the week of August 27: Chapter eight, including pages 79 to 86 in Canadian Civics.

Scripture Lesson—Psalm 145 suggested.

Everybody knows that the affairs of the Government of the Dominion of

Canada mean a tremendous amount of varied business. Some of our members will have visited Ottawa and know that many of the chief buildings of the capital city are devoted to Government offices. Whole "blocks" are thus occupied, and more are required as the business increases with the growth of the nation.

That all these intricate business matters may be carried on systematically and thoroughly, they must be in charge of different "heads" or chief officers who make a special study of their own separate and individual branches, and, then, as we have already seen, come together to consider the interests of the whole.

These branches of Government business are termed departments, and the "heads" of these departments are called ministers. All together they com-

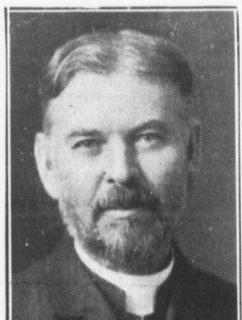
A man who is thoroughly acquainted with the work of the department is indispensable, and no frequent change would be possible without great danger of loss in efficiency.

The Cabinet of the Canadian Government consists of eleven members—the Premier, who is President of the council; the Secretary of State, and thirteen heads of as many different departments. These departments are Trade and Commerce, Justice, Marine and Fisheries, Militia and Defence, Education, Lands, Labor, Agriculture, Public Works, Finance, Railways and Canals, Interior, Customs and Inland Revenue. In addition to the ministers thus connected is the Solicitor-General, who is really the chief counsellor in all matters involving the Government in procedures at law.

The names of the present ministers

A President's Message to the Sunday School and Epworth League Workers in the Montreal Conference

The Parsonage, Kemptville, July 15th.
Dear Fellow Workers.—At the request of our General Secretary and Editor, I send you greetings and a brief message.



REV. S. J. HUGHES, M.A.

Sunday school. May I not say to all our workers such hours are well worth working for. Most of the young men may have such hours in the spirit of our Lord. Yours for service.

God has given us a great field to cultivate; none greater exists. When we consider its vastness and study its possibilities for spiritual harvest, and look at actual results, we must admit that not enough fruit is being gathered. Still we are satisfied that more than eighty-one of our schools observed Decision Day with better results than have been reported.

However, that may be, the longer we labor for God, and the more closely we examine into our work, the more deeply we are impressed with the importance of bringing our young people into vital union with Christ and the Church at as early an age as possible.

Our best workers come from the Sunday School and League. How much, then, must we depend upon the wisdom and faithfulness of those who are set to teach and train them? When we look at a child in the Sunday school class, and find question arises, "What manner of child shall this be?" And upon whom does the scintilla of light depend if not on the teacher? We, as under shepherds, should hear God saying to us, "Where is the flock that I was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" (Jer. 13: 20). And, faithful to the charge, we may be assured that "When the chief Shepherds shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Pet. 5: 4).

The best hour I have had in my ministry for the past three years was an hour spent at your table in our Sunday School Hall. With me sat three of our Sunday School Teachers. The table was surrounded with earnest seekers after Christ from our Sunday School. First, I spoke to the whole group; then I spoke to each separately. Every one of the group accepted Christ gladly. We were all melted to tenderness and tears. The cry of those seeking was, "Give me Christ. One teacher said, "Now, every member of my class is gathered into the fold."

We may have such hours in every Sunday school. Let us have such hours as well worth working for. Most of the young men may have such hours in the spirit of our Lord. Yours for service.

S. J. HUGHES.

pose the Cabinet. Hence the meaning of the office Cabinet Minister.

Each of these ministers is responsible for the prosecution of the business involved in his branch or department of the Government, and is expected to find answers to all the questions which the Opposition members particularly delight to ask concerning the affairs of the country, on the floor of the House of Parliament.

These ministers, being members of the Government (or Cabinet), hold offices just as long as their particular party is in power, and when the Government changes, of course they change too. But, under each minister is a deputy (a second officer, so to speak), who permanently in place. This is really necessary for the safeguarding of the vast amount of business in the conduct of the affairs of the country.

are not given here. Let your members supply these and make a list of them on the board. Memorize them.

We all hear more or less about the Civil Service. This general name covers the army of officials who occupy positions of varying responsibility in the different departments. All these thousands of persons, bookkeepers, clerks, stenographers, messengers, and all the rest, form quite a little army. To obtain a position in the service an applicant must not have simply the influence of some one in position. Political friends have doubtless obtained places for many in the past, but the introduction of written examinations to test the personal ability of all applicants will reduce the dangers of favoritism to a minimum. A Civil Service Commission is in charge of all appointments and promotions.