

them to memory, provided that the trustees, as representing the people, were agreed to this; and, certainly, this would be one of the most effective ways of inculcating "the principles of Christian morality." At the same time, as the law must protect minorities, where parents or guardians object to religious exercises, their children shall not forfeit any school privileges by being absent on such occasions. Trustees can arrange to have part of the school hours devoted to this purpose if no objection be offered, or to have such exercises held before or after ordinary hours when the children of objectors may absent themselves. They are to be guided by the will of the people whom they represent; and probably there are many districts where, if this matter were brought before them, the people would gladly consent that the Bible should be more largely read than at present, and the minds of the children be stored with many of its invaluable precepts. No serious difficulty need arise in the selection of many passages that might be read or committed to memory.

The brief period spent in Sabbath School does little for those who receive no Bible instruction at home; and many parents who try to be faithful in this matter at home, find that the pressure of school lessons is so heavy upon the children, that they wish this could be substituted for some of the work now taken up within the school hours. Through practical exclusion of this matter from the schools, it has come to pass that the great majority of our own children learn less of the Bible than the Coolie children in our Mission schools in Trinidad. Their studies make some of them more familiar with heathen mythology, than with the life of our Lord; and not a few of them, who can repeat long passages from our chief English poets, can scarcely quote correctly any texts of Scripture.

The excuse urged for this has been denominational rivalry, mutual jealousy among the churches; and it has been said that this rivalry was due more to ministers than to laymen, that, if all the clergy could only agree upon the matter, the people would have made little objection. Whatever ground there may once have been for this charge, another spirit seems now to prevail. Members of different churches are more willing now than formerly to have their children receive religious instruction from members