

THE CANADA
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY
AND SCHOOL CHRONICLE.

MARCH, 1879.

THE BIBLE IN OUR SCHOOLS.

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BY Bible we understand that volume of ancient writings which is acknowledged by Christians to be the Revealed Will of God, and authoritative in matters of faith and conduct. By Schools we understand the institutions of learning which have been established by law, are maintained by taxation or from national funds, and are intended for citizens of every class and creed, and of no creed. The question is: should this Bible be used in these schools as an element in forming the character of our children? The answer we give and propose to vindicate, as far as our limited space will permit, is in the affirmative. The Bible should have a place in our schools, and that no second place.

It has been said that "the consensus of enlightened opinion is against us." Culture, in the modern sense of the word, may be opposed to the Bible, as "the wisdom of this world" has always been, and may

seek to be divorced from that religion which has fostered it hitherto and even now is its best friend, though hated; nevertheless we call this *sordidant* enlightened opinion to the bar of common sense and Christian sentiment, under the conviction that that enlightenment is spurious which decries light which comes from God and alone relieves the darkness that hangs over man's origin, nature, spiritual interests and destiny, and which proposes in training our youth to use only the rush-lights of reason and nature.

Two objections chiefly are brought against the use of the Bible in our schools. The first is theoretic, the second practical. The former may thus be stated: Secular education of the masses is a state necessity, especially in a country ruled by the popular will. The state should therefore educate the youth, and for this end should establish and support schools. The state has no concern with religion,