

—a class from whom the vicious and criminal ranks of society are ever being recruited—who might be reached, and in large measure preserved from evil by our present compulsory system if amended in this respect and faithfully applied. Acknowledge this in theory and the practical application of it need not be difficult or long delayed. In the colleges we have admirable text-books, like Wayland's Moral Philosophy; why should we not have something similar, but rudimentary, for the public schools, say such a plain and simple treatise upon the ten commandments as the youngest reader, with the parents' and teachers' help, might understand and profit by; and then for the higher schools, something intermediate between that and such books as Wayland's. Why not? Let public opinion call for it, and our

teachers' associations recommend it, and Government would soon comply. Meantime let it be generally known that there is nothing in our existing enactments to prevent the Bible being daily read, and prayer daily offered, and the ten commandments systematically taught, in our public schools (as we are glad to believe is already done in many of them), and thereby a most valuable and healthful moral educational influence supplied. Moreover, this modicum of moral culture should not be left optional, but at once made binding upon all, and as speedily as possible supplemented in some such way as just indicated. Who will say that our present system is perfect? Who will not say that, if it can, it ought to be improved at a point where vital interests of the very first importance are involved.

(To be concluded in our next.)

THE QUEBEC TEACHERS' PENSION ACT.

BY R. W. BOODLE, B.A., MONTREAL.

THE subject of a retiring pension for Public School teachers is one which is at last attracting the attention of the public. Having noticed Mr. Boyle's contribution to the subject in the October number of the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY, the writer considered that an abstract of the Act lately passed by the Quebec Government would be interesting to those concerned in education in the Province of Ontario. The Act 43-44 Victoria, cap. xxii., is intitled, "An Act to establish a pension and benevolent fund in favour of officers of primary instruction," and received assent on July 24th, 1880. It was the subject of a paper by Dr. Miles, of

Quebec, at the Provincial Convention of Protestant Teachers, held at Montreal in the month of October, and was fully discussed at the meeting, where a committee was appointed to frame resolutions and offer suggestions to the Government.

The following digest contains all matters of importance:

1. *Officers of Primary Instruction.*

—This term includes "school inspectors, professors of normal schools, holding diplomas, and male and female certificated teachers, teaching in an institution under the control of school commissioners or trustees, or subsidized by them or by the Government, but does not include members