

end in like fashion. If religious instruction is to be given with profit, especially where the number of scholars is large, the presence and co-operation of the teachers is requisite. This cannot reasonably be looked for outside the usual hours. On the other hand, teachers, as a rule, will be found ready heartily to assist when the ordinary time-limit is not exceeded; and trustees will with equal willingness grant the necessary shortening of ordinary work on at least one day in the week.

The letter of the regulations seems to contemplate only that the clergy shall "give religious instruction to the pupils of their own denomination." This is scarcely practicable either in town or country. In the large town schools the minister would have in the pupils of his own denomination a quite impracticable class, made up of kindergarten infants, young men and women from the High School, and all the intermediate grades; and in the County Schools the dividing process would result in a miserable handful to each visiting minister. The writer is not aware of any instance in which the denominational method has been tried. It could scarcely succeed.

It is understood, however, to be quite in harmony with the spirit of the regulations that clergymen of different denominations should act in concert in the matter, and so arrange that each in turn shall give instruction to all the scholars. This plan has been under trial for the past twelve months in the High and Public Schools of the town of Bowmanville. It has wrought so smoothly and well that a good purpose may be served by a brief sketch of it in detail. A preliminary consultation with all the clergymen of the town was had, as well as with members of the school board and teaching staff. General approval of the scheme was

found to prevail. A petition from the Ministerial Association was laid before the School Board, and supported by a deputation. The Board at once, and cordially, granted the necessary time,—the last half hour on Friday afternoon of each week, and required the co-operation of the teachers during the time thus allotted to religious instruction. The teachers have manifested unflagging interest in the work, and have materially assisted in the success which has attended it.

The schools of the town are so arranged that, to reach any considerable portion of the scholars, the four ministers who have undertaken to give instruction require all to be on duty each Friday. There are no large assembly rooms. Where there are such, fewer instructors would be needed, and the individual burden therefore lightened. A "plan" was made, so arranged that the ministers follow one another in regular order from room to room, each retaining his room for a month. The same selections from the "Scripture Readings" are read in all the rooms, morning by morning, the passages thus read during the week becoming the basis of instruction on Friday afternoon. Each minister is left quite at liberty as to matter and form. It is well understood that denominational peculiarities would be out of place. The scholars are generally found prepared with suitable hymns, and attention is also given to the recitation of the Commandments.

The arrangements thus sketched have now been in operation for twelve months, and so far as known, have given much satisfaction alike to trustees, teachers, parents and scholars. Though involving the sacrifice of valuable time on the part of the ministers, they have found much pleasure and profit in the work. It materially aids them in keeping