

One reads through the address given by the Hon. G. W. Ross, to the Sunday School Convention at Peterboro', with a feeling akin to indignation. To know the Lord's will, and then not do it, is to confess failure indeed. According to Mr. Ross, "The moral element in citizenship was the enduring element. . . . It was well known, too, that it was the moral element in a nation which preserved it from decay. It was the lack of this element which was answerable for the fall of the civilizations of Greece and Rome." We know that it is so—the moral element is indeed the backbone of the nation; and we naturally expect Mr. Ross to go on and tell us where the teaching of this all-essential morality, necessary to preserve the nation from decay, is to be found. Then, as the representative statesman having this part of the nation's well-being in his hands, to assure us that the text-book, which taught this necessary morality was already in the hands of every coming citizen of this Province. But what does he tell the teachers of Peterboro'? "In the Public Schools it was possible only to give moral education incidentally." Will everyone please take note of that? Can anything be more disappointing—can anything be more ominous for the future? The chief Minister of Education says that the essential element which is necessary to preserve this fair Canada of ours from decay can only be taught in the Public Schools "incidentally"—and that means—

Perhaps it was more than a mere coincidence that the daily papers of Canada all contained the following notice almost immediately afterwards:

PARIS.—*The Gaulois* announces that henceforth the motto, "God protects France," will be stricken from French coin. The paper remarks sarcastically that it is a good thing, since foreigners might be led to believe from

seeing the inscription that Frenchmen still have faith in Providence. It suggests that the Government adopt the motto: "Schwartz Koppen protects the Republic."

This is one of the inevitable results of teaching "morality" in the Public Schools "incidentally."

On the day following the publication of *The Gaulois* telegram, a large public meeting was held in the town hall of Port Hope, at the call of the Archdeacon of Peterboro'. In addition to the influential clergy and laymen gathered for the Conference, the Mayor, together with the Presbyterian and Methodist ministers, was upon the platform, and took part in the proceedings. The Hon. S. H. Blake, Q. C., in a powerful address, strongly contended that, whilst our system of education admirably met the needs of the body and mind, it left the needs of the spiritual faculties untouched. He pointed out why the Sunday School was inadequate to supply the needs of the child, and said that, whilst the liberty of the subject must be respected, he would like to see the great Christian communions united in an endeavor to have the Bible placed upon the curriculum of the schools. He thought few would deny that this was an age of irreverence and disobedience. What he wanted was, first, the Bible as a text-book, and then to have its lessons taught through the medium of a catechism, in which all the questions were answered in the words of the Bible. Even as a literary production the Bible was of unparalleled value. He pointed out that the nations that ruled out or disregarded the Bible were the decaying nations of to-day, and concluded with an eloquent appeal for unity in forwarding the work of Biblical instruction.

We believe that Mr. Blake was well within the mark when he said that our