

51 McKinley Crescent,
BROOKLYN,
WELLINGTON,
NEW ZEALAND.
17th April, 1936.

The Secretary,
Dr. Nobel's Peace Prize Essay Competition,
C/o Parliament House,
STOCKHOLM.

Hon. Sir,

The Minister of Education in England called together a Commission to enquire into "The Teaching of English in England". A Government Report of the proceedings of the Commission was published under the above title. Over 200 educationists gave evidence. The Report recommended - amongst other things - that "a greater place should be given in the schools to the study of the Bible as literature over and above the 30 minutes set apart daily for the usual Bible lesson, as an aid to the formation of high character.

I sent to you some time ago a suggestion that your Commission might offer a prize for the best essay explaining a plan or system for getting the Bible read in the public schools, in the interests of character building and general culture, with arguments in support. Of course, entrants for this suggested Peace essay would write regarding the Bible of his own particular country. Russians would write of the Bible of the Greek Church; Germans of the Lutheran Bible; Roman Catholics of the Douay Bible; and British and American entrants of the Authorised Version or of the Revised Version of the Bible.

This suggested essay would deal:

- First, with the historical value of the Bible. Froude, the historian, states that no race has left such a mark on history as the Jewish race has.
- Second, the value of the Bible as literature, because there is scarcely one outstanding speech uttered or important book or article written but which makes use of a Bible quotation to strengthen an argument.
- Third, Educationists of the leading universities and other leaders in the scholastic world, are agreed that the chief aim of education is the formation of character; and they are also agreed that you cannot form character without referring to the Bible.
- Fourth, There is no book in the world which sets out the blessings of peace as does the Bible: therefore its peace teachings should have a place in every school under Western civilization.