

That the regulation regarding the opening and closing of school is fairly observed, the following statistics show :

Year.	No. of Schools.	No. opened and closed with Prayer.	Per cent.
1865....	4,303	2,889	67
1879.....	6,596	4,175	63
1889.....	7,421	5,213	70
1899.....	8,465	5,467	64

Any one acquainted with the men and women who form our teachers is satisfied that the virtues enumerated in the regulations are really being inculcated. At the same time he will be equally satisfied that it is quite possible, notwithstanding what is done by the pulpit, the Sunday School, and the day school, for one to graduate into the world of life without any definite knowledge of the Bible.

This condition would soon disappear if the Bible were used as a text book in School and College and studied just as the Public School Geography, or History, or Grammar is studied. That there are difficulties in the way of doing this is soon apparent. Some would consider this sacrilegious; the Bible is not to be used for any such profane purpose, say these.

Then, if used in this way, it must be explained. But, because the Bible appeals to the spiritual nature of man, men differ greatly in their interpretations of multitudes of passages, each one putting his own meaning derived largely from his spiritual training on these. Take for example the diverse views upon the Fourth Commandment and Sabbath observance, or upon the question of "temperance."

Then, teachers must be prepared to teach the Bible in this way; for it is as reasonable to expect a person who has been brought up in a cultured home and society, and who consequently speaks good English,

to teach English grammar without a study of the subject as to expect one whose qualifications are that he is a moral man and a reputable citizen to teach the Bible. Of course our Public and High School teachers are not ignorant of the Bible, but their knowledge must necessarily fall far short of what they feel requisite to enable them to deal with this subject in the same way as they deal with others. Hence, before the Bible can be used as a text-book in schools in any other way than is now done, *i.e.*, read, it is essential that teachers be taught Biblical literature in the same manner as they are taught any other subject. Hence, it would be necessary for our High School teachers to fit themselves to teach this book in the same way as they qualify themselves for teaching classics, or science, or mathematics. This would mean a chair of Biblical literature in our Universities and a discussion of the principles underlying the presentation of this subject in our Training Schools.

No valid objections can be urged to the Education Department so modifying the regulations as to permit High School Boards to introduce an optional course of Bible study into their schools, and examining such candidates as select this course in the usual way in July, and recognizing its successful completion by a special certificate. The results would be that in a few years our Public School teachers would feel that they were not attempting to teach that which they do not know; their value as teachers would be greatly increased; many school boards in selecting teachers would give the preference to such; the experience gained would do much to dissipate the fears of those who think the use of the Bible would lead to sectarian strife and would