

It will seldom rise above it. With the standard changed, with the position of the teacher lowered by the elimination of the religious element from his sphere, the character of the profession as a whole will be in time lowered also to the invariable injury of the youth and, therefore, of the country. The final settlement of the question, which is now agitating the community, may be remote. It is possible it may be the work of years. Let us cherish the hope, that, when it is reached, it may be one which will not signalize the triumph of any political or ecclesiastical party, but one in which good men of all parties can take pride, and as the result of which the care and training of our youth shall become an object of greater solicitude to the people of the province, and the profession of the teacher accordingly rise in general estimation. Gentlemen of the college—whether in the theological or in the arts course, be prepared to contribute your part in accomplishing such a settlement. Your experience in this institution may perhaps throw valuable light on the question to you, as it has helped, if not to shape, yet to strengthen my convictions on the subject. On the benches of this college there have sat during the six years of my connection with it, as there sit to day, representatives of almost all the religious denomina-

tions in the province, Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, and, of course, Presbyterian. The Bible has been read every morning and its teachings have been enforced, as occasion offered or seemed to require. In addition you have been led in prayer by the members of the staff in turn. No one, so far as I know, has taken offence. No one has asked to be excused attendance at the religious exercises on conscientious grounds. We have all, I am sure, been helped by these exercises. The tone of the college life has been assuredly raised thereby. Why take away then altogether from the public school that which we have found at once so inoffensive and so useful? Let the politician give us some better answer than this, that the Roman Catholic church, or her priests at least, demand that we shall either tolerate her sectarian schools or expel the Bible—their Bible as well as ours, from the public schools, and expel it from the public schools with what result? To make it possible for them to recommend or even sanction the support of these schools by their people? Not at all; their avowed principles would forbid it; but to give them obviously and undeniably the godless character which will go far to justify their condemnation and rejection of them.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH.*

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I THINK, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I must begin by congratulating you on the position which the study of modern languages has secured at your universities here. No

doubt it has taken the labours of many persons, members of this association and others whom I do not know, to bring about this result.

So far then the teacher of English must gratefully recognize the prominent position which has been won for his subject.

* A Paper read before the Modern Language Association, Toronto.