

In view of these things, it is very interesting to watch the great work going on in the capital of England under the London School Board, to which we have frequently called attention in these columns. It is surely a fact of great hope for the future of England that during the past year 105,000 pupils in the city of London made a systematic and thorough study of that Word of God which gave us our present laws and liberties, and which, as long as we receive and believe it, is a sure bulwark against the tyranny of kings on the one hand and the *license* of the mob on the other. In the "Sunday at Home" for September, we find a good description of the impressive day at the Crystal Palace:—

"The third annual distribution of Bibles and Testaments presented by Mr. Francis Peek and the Religious Tract Society to pupil-teachers and children who have been successful in a voluntary examination in Scripture knowledge, took place on a recent Saturday afternoon at the Crystal Palace, under very favourable auspices. There were nearly thirty thousand persons present, including the children and teachers, the latter of whom, to the number of nearly a thousand, were entertained by Mr. Peek to luncheon. Addressing the teachers after the luncheon Mr. Peek reminded them of the vast importance of the work which was committed to their charge. The very interesting ceremony of distributing 4,000 Bibles and Testaments as rewards for proved proficiency in religious knowledge took place in the Handel Orchestra, before a very large audience. The orchestra was filled with children from the schools, who gave a pleasing concert of sacred and secular music. Sir Charles Reed, President of the Board, presided. Before the presentation Sir Charles Reed delivered a short address in which he said that he wished to make very clear two or three things in connection with the distribution. The Act of Parliament left school boards free to give or to withhold Bible teaching; but it was provided that if any religious instruction were given it must be absolutely undenominational. The School Board for London resolved at once that in their schools the Bible should be read daily, accom-