

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.

\*THE Revised Version of Scripture Readings comes to us like the ghost of his father did to Hamlet in such a questionable shape, that we are puzzled before we hold converse with it. It is sent to us by Mr. Ross, Minister of Education, with the publishers' customary compliments. But on opening the book at the title page it is there stated to be published by Mr. Briggs, the very estimable Wesleyan minister who is head of the publishing business of that body. Mr. Ross and Mr. Briggs therefore appear to be Siamese twins, but we credit the former with being the moving spirit of the pair, and every teacher will know that he had better be careful in dealing with this book lest he discover that he is under the shadow of the Education Department.

As to the business of the Wesleyan Publishing House, let us take the opportunity of saying that it has hitherto been conducted with an enterprise and judgment most honorable, as no doubt, most helpful to the Methodist cause.

The Church would find a similar department of extreme value. We, alas! are crippled by the petty wranglings and jealousies of party spirit, and by the inordinate vanities of individuals who will help nothing done for the Church as a whole, but whose delight is to hamper and worry every one who aims higher than sectional or personal interests, and who take a very unworthy pleasure in weakening the hands of any worker whom they do not control.

This new version of the Ross Bible has been analysed by a writer in the daily press, who finds it to differ from the original so far as to be practically a different work. It contains a large amount of selections not in the first; it omits what was in the first; its order is utterly changed from the first; its "mutilations" are less flagrant; its selections are not so "muddled and mixed;" it differs so materially from the first that it will be impossible to use the first Ross Bible in the same schools as those where this second Ross Bible will be used. Thus the first must be cast out to make room for the second, or the first must be retained and all new scholars will be compelled to buy a book that the Department of Education itself has condemned, or the new Ross Bible will eject God's Bible in other schools than those that have driven out the Holy Scriptures. Thus we shall have three sets of books used in our Public Schools, greatly to the cost of parents and the confusion and terrible injury to the young, who will thus be taught to pay no more reverence to the Word of God than to books compiled by a man at the command of a Roman Catholic archbishop! Persons who regard such a book without considering its *origin and intention* should think of a cardinal's ring. This is a mere piece of gold adorned with stones. If

\*The Revised Version of Scripture Readings for use in the Public Schools of Ontario. Published by Wm. Briggs and the Minister of Education.

worn by any ordinary person it would be a thing of *innocence and beauty*. But worn by a cardinal it indicates his rank; it is the symbol of his authority, and whoever kisses this ring of *innocence and beauty*, thereby acknowledges submission to the Cardinal as the representative of the Church of Rome! So with the Ross Bible, first or second. Of itself it may be a thing of *innocence and beauty*. But we know that its *origin* was a protest against the Bible by Dr. Lynch, and its *intention* is to compel our Protestant Schools to cast out the Bible. Thus this thing which the unthinking regard with complacency, this Ross Bible, is the symbol and sign of a Popish demand for supremacy over our Protestant Schools in Ontario. The Romanist children are not to be present when the Protestant Bible, whole or mutilated, is read, and Dr. Lynch triumphs by having compelled a Protestant province to eject the Bible as its basis for religious instruction!

On the last page of the new Ross Bible are the words: "If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy God shall take his part out of the book of life." Thus reads Rev. xxii. 19. When we are charged with using strong language against Mr. Ross's mutilated edition of God's Word, we say plainly, the words of divine prophecy have been taken away despite the awful threats of God's Word, and upon you who have done this, upon you who favor this, rests the solemn condemnation which winds up the last utterance of the Holy Ghost in Scripture. We know that this is usually read to apply only to the Book of Revelations; this in the Bible contains about 5,800 words, of which 3,400 are "taken away" in the Ross Bible, and from the whole Bible are "taken away" no less than 233,000 words! Again we read: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, &c." (2 Tim. iii. 16). Let this apply only to the Old Testament; yet of these Scriptures given by inspiration the Ross Bible rejects 212,000 words as wholly unfit for the very uses for which they were given by the Holy Spirit! The whole Bible contains 66 books, in which are about 384,000 words. The Selections are only, from 47 of these books and contain only 151,000 words. In the New Testament the Gospel is written with a divine purpose, with a wonderfully wise and instructive purpose, in four histories, the harmony of which is essential to their teaching. In the Selections there is no harmony possible, as a large portion of the Gospels is suppressed. Lee on Inspiration, pages 41, 42, speaks of the Bible as a perfect whole, each member essential to completing the record. Wordsworth on Inspiration, p. 108, compares the books of the Bible as fitted together like the wings of the cherubim intertwined and interlaced. Bishop Ellicott says it is a vital truth that every separate portion of Scripture is inspired, and all from a living and organic whole. In the Bible the Book of Acts contains only about one-eighth of the whole N. T. In the Selections the Book of Acts is about one-third of the whole N. T., so grievously

are the Epistles and Revelations mutilated. About five-sevenths of the Old Testament and two-ninths of the New Testament are utterly cast out of the new Ross Bible, the inevitable inference and certain implication being that a very large part of the Holy Scriptures is not true, or not instructive, or not profitable. The Church as the "Witness and Keeper of Holy Writ" has a duty to perform in guarding her charge from mutilations. Every Protestant must on principle resist the use of the Ross Bible, because it is a sop to the Papal authorities. Every Christian in Ontario must sternly refuse to come under the threatening of God against those who "take away" from His Message. Of this ill-advised work we can only add, "It is not, nor can it come to good."

## HERMIT-CRABISM.

BY J. M.

AGES ago the little creature which is now called the Hermit Crab, but was then a true crustacean, took possession of a vacant molluscan shell in order to be safe from the perils of his environment. His ancestors had all been genuine crabs, battling bravely for life amid the sharp stones and the tossing surges; keeping a keen look-out for the unscrupulous marine devourer; developing vigilance, skill, their defensive armour—living a dangerous but noble, because normal, life of independence. Their physical structure in those days was complete—each organ, every part of the frame fully developed and vigorous. But at last, in an evil day, came the thought to one of these, "The perils are many; the exertion is toilsome; here is an empty shell; why not get into it and be safe? He got in, and was safe. He purchased safety at the expense of his crabhood. From that moment dates his descent in the scale of being; and to-day his descendants are not true crustaceans at all, but miserable woe-begone objects, branded all over with Nature's sentence against the unnatural crime ancestral. Part after part has dwindled or disappeared, till nothing remains but an ugly deformity, a despicable pretence to crabhood. For Nature's decrees are stern and implacable as to sins against herself. In her kingdom the law holds good: "From him shall be taken away even that which he hath." In every instance her gifts, when unvalued or unused, are resumed. The limb or the organ that is not exercised perishes. But this profound principle permeates equally the moral and the spiritual sphere.

In what consisted the sin of the first heretical Hermit Crab? It was this: One all-absorbing thought possessed him—ESCAPE. What cared he for Nature's just claims on his crabhood? Was it not nature that had placed peril in his path? And must he not flee both that, peril and its source? The ennobling duty of standing his ground, fighting bravely for life, growing greater and grander in the teeth of environment; nay, of converting the worst features of that very environment into a ladder of elevation, developing thus the full

stature of crabhood the realm of being ESCAPE was the things he saw: The shell received And he lost his cheap salvation world? Let us

I will glance At every step of Hermit Crab in not all the various species of departed sits in one kind of his poor blinding monster con One is labelled pant is safe. A nation;" its crab version;" its wretched for th

I will only d the crab get into put him into this "conversion formula. Its died for sinners Christ died for are 'saved.'" kind of salvat logical formula scoundrel, in shell, and lo! Having duly ir ness of mor goes in quest The whole c three words—l mere selfishne legerdemain; known on e labelled the n to vegetate i till it please a thought or of 'walking the works o word about s deeds that th him. Not through mo against the at of the moral allusion to th the blade, t recognition over the fa longest whe suddenness escence, tha extant in Na has successf environment gives us bot man must w see here the salvation wi soul thus " is it not a F the whole