

ture, i.e., to study it so as to find out the meaning of the text, both in detail and as a whole, and it is the incapacity to study the Bible as literature that causes so much narrowness and bigotry. But when it is proposed to put the Bible in schools there are difficulties. First, there are those to be considered who would have to do the teaching. Perhaps you have in your mind some teacher of literature who would be scarcely the best in the world to teach the Bible even as literature.

. . . Anglicans or Presbyterians or Methodists would object to a Baptist teacher explaining the Bible to their children—foolishly perhaps, but yet obstinately, even if it were understood that no doctrinal teaching should be given. . . .

It seems to me that the fault lies largely in the churches and homes. I can't help thinking that the multiplication of meetings and societies detracts from the real work of the church. And members of churches are too prone to leave the expounding of the Scriptures to the minister and do not attempt to do their best, poor though it may be, in explaining the book at home.

I can't help thinking, too, sometimes, but I would not like to state it dogmatically, that the very reverence with which the Bible is regarded, or has been regarded, especially by the good old Scotch Presbyterians, interferes with the study of it as literature, without which I do not think the Bible can be studied at all."

Mr. John Smith, B.A., High School Inspector.

"So far as my experience goes, both as teacher and inspector, the boys and girls of our High Schools are very poorly acquainted with the Scriptures. When a question has arisen involving a knowledge of Biblical history or common quotations, I have been astonished at the ignorance displayed. I can, indeed, remember no case in which more than a few pupils of a class have made any attempt to answer. My experience in such matters is of course limited; but it is also that of others with whom I have discussed the subject. It seems to me that the Sunday School should give special prominence to Biblical history."

From A. Stevenson, B.A., English Master, Woodstock Coll. Inst.; Pres. Mod. Lang. Association of Ontario.

"I find the lack of Scripture knowledge among my pupils most disheartening. And further, this ignorance is just as great among the Epworth Leaguers and Christian Endeavorers here as I found it among the Roman Catholics at Arthur—*just as great* . . . The Sunday Schools are called upon to do too much. They can never take the place of parents in religious instruction. They were intended and should be kept mainly if not entirely for those children whose parents are not religious. Fewer teachers would then be needed and perhaps a better selection could be made . . . Everybody should emphasize the home as the best place to get a knowledge of the Bible—at least in the families of professedly religious people."