

# THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

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## Editorial.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**I**N a recent issue of our MONTHLY we called the attention of our readers to the experience of the London (Eng.) School Board in the matter of Religious instruction in their elementary schools. This business is regulated in the London Schools by a Resolution passed by the Board, at the commencement of its labours in 1870, on the motion of Mr. H. Smith, M.P. for Westminster, that, "In the schools provided by the Board the Bible shall be read, and there shall be given such explanations and such instruction *therefrom* in the principles of religion and morality as are suited to the capabilities of the children."

Wishing to know more about this important and interesting experiment, (which, as a single *fact*, is worth a bushel of fine-spun theories,) we wrote to Francis Peek, Esq., London, a member of the School Board, who has invested \$25,000 for the purchase of Bibles to be presented annually as prizes for attainments in Biblical knowledge. In reply he sent us several official documents, accompanied with the following letter, which, as being on public business, we can here, without any breach of confidence, lay before our readers.

"It gives me great pleasure," writes Mr. Peek, "to comply with your request, and I think from the books sent per Book Post you will obtain the entire information that you require. I have only to add to it that while the proposition regarding the prizes met at first with the fiercest opposition from the secular