

the last census there are only twenty atheists and 409 deists, being in all 429 who could on any consistent ground oppose the introduction of the Bible into the national schools. If the excellent Minister who is now at the head of the educational department of Ontario, would take the pains to acquaint himself with the method of Bible study in force under the London School Board, adapt it to the schools of Ontario, and so order it, that Trustees throughout the country could adopt it if they choose; and let some tangible encouragement be given to Bible study such as has been done by Mr. Francis Peek, and then would we see the youth of our Province leap to their work as they have done in London. The result of close study of this blessed book would tell for good on the next generation.

"For in the mind are unknown powers  
That recreate the seeds that seem to rot,  
And many rays of soul and spirit showers  
From heaven that feed our thought."

It would tell for good at a time when the democracy of this continent, according as things now look, will be on its trial for continued freedom, or for military despotism. Who can doubt the truth of the closing words (let them be our closing words here) of the *London Methodist* on the religious element in education, a subject occupying largely the attention of the press of England at the present time?—

"The Bible alone has made the Protestantism of the mass of Englishmen what it is. The translation of the Scriptures which Wickliffe left behind him was a much stronger weapon against ecclesiastical tyranny than any he had wielded in his lifetime. In Elizabeth's days, when the people flocked to the market-place to hear the Scriptures read, it was not to clerical exposition that they listened. The greatest moral influence England has ever known—the influence of Puritanism—drew its vitality from the Bible, but not from an ecclesiastical interpretation of it. The Bible is the keystone of the Protestant faith, and we submit, without fear of challenge, that the position which it holds in the system of national education is in keeping with the noblest tradition of our country."