

this duty. The book itself is the best evidence of the manner in which the work was done. It has been justly claimed by the sub-committee "that the volume of selections was intended to be thoroughly representative of every portion of the Scriptures, whether of a moral or doctrinal character." The selections have met with general approval, even *The Mail* congratulated the Minister of Education on having adopted this series of readings for use in the Common Schools, and warmly commended the work. That was before the idea of representing it as a dishonour to the Bible and a blow to Protestantism was thought out.

I want specially to call attention to the fact that not only the sub-committee of revision, whose names have been often mentioned, approved of preparing these Scripture selections, but

THE LARGE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PROTESTANT MINISTERS AND LAYMEN,

representing not only the three Churches already named, but also Baptist and Congregational ministers, approved of this course, which the public are now asked by certain parties to believe is the adoption of a Roman Catholic policy that rejects and dishonours the Bible.

Here are the names of the members of the joint committee of representatives to whom the proof-sheets of the readings were sent, and who, at their meeting approved of the preparation and publication of a book of Scripture Readings:—

The Methodist Church.—Rev. Dr. Rose, Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Rev. Dr. Dewart, Rev. S. J. Hunter, Rev. W. S. Blackstock, Rev. E. Roberts, Rev. J. M. Simpson, Mr. John Macdonald, Mr. R. Walker, Mr. Warring Kennedy, and Mr. Justice Rose.

Church of England.—Very Rev. Archdeacon Boddy, M.A.; Rev. Provost Boddy, M.A.; Rev. John Langtry, M.A.; Rev. J. P. Lewis, Rev. I. Middleton, B.A.; Rev. J. W. Beck, Rev. A. Sanson, Hon. G. W. Allan, Mr. N. W. Hoyles, B.A.; Mr. C. R. W. Biggar, M.A.; Mr. G. B. Kirkpatrick, Mr. A. McLean Howard, and J. A. Worrel, B.C.L.

The Presbyterian Church.—Rev. Dr. Laing, Rev. Dr. Gregg, Rev. Principal Grant, Rev. Principal Caven, Rev. H. M. Parsons, Rev. S. Lyle, Rev. W. T. McMullen, Charles Davidson, Mr. J. L. Blaikie, Mr. James McLellan, Q.C., Mr. H. Cassels, Dr. Macdonald.

The Congregational Church.—Rev. H. P. Powis, Rev. John Burton, B.D.

The Baptist Church.—Rev. Dr. Castle.

All these gentlemen were not present at the meeting of the conference that approved the proposed book, but nearly all the ministers named were there, and I believe the proof-sheets were sent to every member of the different deputations so that none of them were left in ignorance of what was proposed, or without an opportunity of objecting.

And yet, in the face of these facts respecting the origin, the approval and objects of the book, the Protestants of Ontario are asked to believe that these Scripture readings were an anti-Protestant movement designed to dishonour the Bible and banish it from the Public Schools. This could only be true on the supposition that this conference of Protestant Ministers was knowingly faithless and disloyal to the Bible, or too stupid to understand the purport and effect of the course of action of which they approved. It will be impossible to persuade the people of Ontario that they were either the one or the other. The Protestant Ministers who approved of the proposed readings are certainly as loyal to the Bible, and as jealous of its honour as the most blatant of their partisan assailants. For myself and the Christian gentlemen with whom I was associated, I fling back the clap-trap appeals and partisan misrepresentation as mean and slanderous aspersions on the character of men who were honest and intelligently endeavouring to promote a fuller knowledge of the life-giving

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