

The best trained group of boys and girls in the Word of God we ever saw, the order of its books, their contents, their spirit, was a coloured Sunday-school taught by black teachers and catechised by a black preacher, in the city of Atlanta, Georgia. On the desk stood a bust of the great hero of their race, the slave-born Fred. Douglass, who became a marshal of the United States Government.

What has been done for the coloured people of the South can be done for the white people of Canada. Our *confrère*, the *Westminster*, strongly urges that religious instruction be imparted, not only in the public schools, but in the high schools, colleges and universities, and especially in the schools of pedagogy. We strongly support the suggestion, but we deem it unwise to wait till a new class of teachers shall have been trained in these institutions. Let the beginning be made at once in them all.

A few years ago Paul Bert, a French Minister of Public Instruction, not only cast the Bible out of the public school, but erased the name of God from all text-books, even from the translation of *Robinson Crusoe*. What religious instruction there was was given into the hands of the Jesuits, and the result is the fierce bigotry and intolerance of the anti-Semites and the low grade of social morality and declining population of the once noble and chivalric French nation.

In the United States the schools are, we believe, thoroughly secularized. To meet the objections of a small minority of infidels, agnostics and Jews, the Bible is ruled out of almost all the schools. This is a tyranny of the minorities that we deem intolerable. A conscience clause would protect them from any contamination by the religious instruction which they seem to dread. The Roman Catholic Church has a great system of parochial schools where they train their young people in the tenets of the Church. Even so sturdy a body as the Lutherans have four thousand parochial schools, many of which, in regions where they are too poor to have a day-school teacher, are taught by the clergy. We think it would be a disaster to have a denomina-

tional school system existing in Canada. But better this than an ignoring of the great principles of Biblical morality.

In Newfoundland, such are the social and religious conditions, you will find in some small villages distinct Roman Catholic, Church of England and Methodist day schools, where the whole school population is only enough for one good school. Such a condition of things maintains denominational fissures in society and lessens the chances for proper school training.

The people of this Dominion and this Province have the remedy in their own hands. They make governments, they can mould them. Let them but rise to a sense of their duty and responsibility in this matter, let them but exhibit large-hearted, broad-minded, catholic liberality, and agree upon the essential principles of religious instruction without sectarian teaching, and they may have it in five years or less. Nothing will so elevate the tone of public and private morality, nothing will so broaden the intelligence of our people; nothing will so strengthen their intellectual faculties and sharpen their mental acumen, as the study of the sublime teaching affecting both worlds of the Book of books.

Three hundred years ago John Knox and the Scottish reformers determined on having a school in every parish and a Bible in every school. The result has been that development of moral and intellectual character which has given the Scot his industrial and commercial supremacy in all lands. Let us lay broad and deep and stable the foundations of our Canadian commonweal in a knowledge of the letter and the spirit of the Word of God, that which liveth and abideth for ever, and the future of our country during the successive decades of the twentieth century shall be assured in largest plenitude. Then shall be fulfilled the benediction of Holy Writ: "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord."

FAITH DIVINE.

O God, how great Thy faith, Thy patience, too,
How great, since Thou who seest all earth's shame,
Its cruel wrongs, its deep unuttered woes,
Its selfish sins committed in Thy name,
Canst wait in hope, without a breaking heart,
Through all the years, and trust that he who came
From thee will conquer yet, will win the fight
And through the pow'r of love set all things right.