

in these times is so hostile, and its attitude so little disposed to believe, that no evidence that faith rests upon is likely to make much impression on it, and scepticism for a time, we fear, must prevail. But faith, however it may be derided by the present thought of the age, is not despondent; still less is it disposed to abandon all that cheers and consoles it at the bidding of what may be but a transient wave of hardened disbelief and erring doubt.

Coleridge's philosophy, however mystic at times it is, recognizes as the essence of Christianity the spiritual nature of man, and a self-power, or will, at the root of all his being. "I assume," Coleridge says, "a something the proof of which no man can give to another, yet every man may find for himself." Hence his assumption that Christian philosophy, or theology, in the popular phrase, rests upon three ultimate facts, namely, "the reality of the law of conscience, the existence of a responsible will as the subject of that law, and lastly, the existence of God Himself." The first, he adds, "is a fact of consciousness; the second, a fact of reason necessarily concluded from the first; and the third, a fact of history interpreted by both." These, as Principal Tulloch states, were the radical data of the religious philosophy of Coleridge; and, as he properly points out, "they imply a general conception of religion which was revolutionary for his age." Though there is much in his philosophy of pure Platonism, there is not a little that is intellectually stimulating and spiritually edifying. Much of his thought was wholly speculative, but its speculative character was the living expression of the spiritual consciousness. Though his metaphysical habit obscures much of his thought, it will repay the modern scholar to find out what it really is.

TORONTO NORMAL SCHOOL.

TWO important changes have been made, in the staff of the Toronto Normal School. Dr. Davies, after many years' service, first as Assistant Master, and subsequently as Principal, has given way to Mr. Kirkland, the Science Master of the School; and Mr. Clare, the teacher of writing and book-keeping in the Normal and Model Schools for nearly twenty years, has been dismissed, to make way for a new man. The reasons must surely be weighty, to justify the summary dismissal of two public servants of such long standing as these two gentlemen. We have no desire to become the apologist of Dr. Davies, but the same reasons which justify his dismissal now, had equal cogency ten years ago, and since the Government retained him in its services so long, in spite of all the fault finding there has been, it would only be following well established precedents, to provide him with some position in which his services would still be of use to the country. If the Minister is at a loss for an example, we would remind him of the change that was made in the management of the Brantford Asylum, a few years ago.

Mr. Clare has hitherto been regarded as one of the most efficient and pains-taking teachers in the Normal and Model Schools. Indeed we know of no man who has done better work in the service of the Department, and performed his duty more conscientiously. Why then is he, a faithful and useful public servant, cast adrift without any adequate recognition of his past services? Perhaps, to use Voltaire's phrase, it is done to encourage the others. In no well ordered private establishment, would a man who had given the best years of his life to its service, be so ruthlessly dealt with.

The Minister has the evident desire, in administering the affairs of his de-