

"The regulations prescribing the 'hours of daily teaching,' provide that they shall not exceed six hours in duration; but a less number of hours of daily teaching may be determined upon in any Public School. At the option of the trustees for closing the ordinary school work earlier than the usual hour on certain days, that time may be given for religious instruction."

"These," said Mr. Blake, "are the Order-in-Council provisions to which the committee called the special attention of the Synod. The report goes on to say:—

"During the summer months your committee, in conjunction with the members of similar committees appointed by the Methodist and Presbyterian bodies,

#### MET THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

at his request, that opportunity might be given for a free discussion as to its best way of dealing with the matter. The meeting was singularly unanimous in its views—"

"Mark that," said Mr. Blake interrupting himself, "singularly unanimous in its views." (Loud applause.) Mr. Blake continued reading:—

And your committee pressed for some relaxation of the regulations relegating all religious instruction by the clergy to some time beyond the ordinary school hours, and for the use by the teacher and pupils in each school of a carefully revised selection of Scripture readings."

"They pressed for this," again interrupted the speaker; "they pressed that these Scripture selections might be read in each school, and there was no Roman Catholic upon the committee; nobody but the representatives of the Protestants of this Province."

"The audience loudly applauded Mr. Blake's remarks, and he continued the quotation at the request of the Minister (whose courtesy and interest in the matter your committee desire to gratefully acknowledge)."

"Just think of that," remarked the speaker. "This is the wretched creature who wrote the Ross Bible. (Laughter.) Here is the committee 'gratefully' acknowledging his courtesy in the matter." (Renewed laughter and applause.) Mr. Blake read on:—

"Two members of the committee consented to aid in the final revision of the book of Scripture readings, a task in which they were engaged for some days with representatives of other Christian bodies. Your committee desire to place on record

#### THE HARMONY AND UNITY

of feeling which marked throughout this labour of love, and they confidently commend to the Church the volume now authorized, as a gratifying proof of the unity of action which has thus been shown to be possible in this matter, and which they trust may ever continue among Christians in this Province with regard to this important and vital question."

Mr. Blake read the last few lines slowly and emphatically, and the audience cheered enthusiastically as he halted. Then he said:—

And I will just here say that a more dastardly attempt to prevent union, a more miserable faction fight than we have had within the last month in this Province, I don't know in any history very well. (Loud applause.) Hear the remainder of the committee's report:—

"It is confidently hoped that

#### SUFFICIENT COMBINED PRESSURE

may now be brought to bear upon Boards of Trustees to ensure the weekly instruction in the Commandments and the adoption of the provisions by which religious instruction can be given within the ordinary hours of school teaching. In view of the great importance of the subject, and the extreme desirableness of keeping the matter prominently before the public, your committee ask that a committee upon this subject be re-appointed for the further prosecution of the object committed to them, viz., the obtaining sound religious instruction in all the Public and High Schools of Ontario.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"C. W. E. BOND, Chairman.

"May 20th, 1885."

This report, said Mr. Blake, was dealt with in this way, as we find on another page of the official report of the proceedings of the Synod:—

"The Rev. the Provost of Trinity College read the report of the Committee on Religious Instruction in the Public Schools (Appendix J), and on motion of the reverend gentleman, seconded by Rev. John Davidson, it was

"Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Religious Instruction in the Public Schools be adopted, and that the committee be re-appointed for the ensuing year."

Now, as I said, is it not better for us, like honest men, to say that was the utterance of persons who knew whereof they were speaking, carefully prepared and carefully worded. That was a great advance, a great benefit, and I say that I should prefer my children attending at the Public School should do what we were obliged to do in our International

is God's mean as Protestants Roman Catholic Province. Is "No.") Is the force and brut strength show in generosity, any attack the and brethren i God in a form and it is

that I claim for myself. (Ter fully if it v cause I feel tempts tha this countr merits of t (Applause). were tried up the legislation roused, a drea us trample of the wed Let us det they pleas anyone, an liberty. (A creant who do tration that w up straight be and before th the way!"

On coming fo to-night as a tions during infamous com Protestants, out Protestar said about us form to-night

which have l Protestant. ultra kind. themselves o and who priz they claim I have begun some Protes the Archbish