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## Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, JULY, 1896.

## The Bible in the Schools.

We do not refer to the Sunday-schools. Of course, the Bible will be there. It is their only text book; it should be in every scholar's hand. But we refer to the Bible in our public schools. It should be there, not merely as a matter of form, but as a chief element in education. It is the noblest classic in any language. It embodies the most important history in the world. No poetry is so sublime. No stories are so tender. No morals are so pure and ennobling. Yet boys and girls are taught the beauties of English literature in our schools, and the history of Greece and Rome, who know little of the literature of the Bible or the history of God's chosen people Israel.

Notwithstanding the many improvements which have been made in recent times, when we were at school forty years ago things were managed better. We used then the Irish national series of school books, in which was a consecutive account of Biblical history. No boy or girl could leave school without some intelligent acquaintance with the records of the race.

The jealousies of the Roman Catholic Church and of the handful of infidels and agnostics in

Canada have, to a large extent, suppressed the daily use of the Bible as a text-book. Where its reading is retained, it is apt to be a mere formal perfunctory reading of a few verses in the morning. A great wrong and injustice is thus done to the rising generation. They are denied their national birthright. Tyndale boasted that the time was coming when every plowboy in England would know more of the Bible than the priests. Yet, this precious heritage is largely a sealed book to a great many of those who most need it.

We hope that the current agitations and discussions will lead to the clearer recognition of this right of the common people to a familiar acquaintance with the Word of God, not the teaching of doctrine, but of the history and morals of the Book of books. Till this desirable end is secured we should redouble our diligence to make the single hour of instruction every week in the Sunday-schools as effective as possible. Let the Bible be more largely memorized than it is. Let our scholars acquire not merely a scraggy acquaintance with parts, but some definite conception of the Bible as a whole, of the mighty sweep of its history, and the all important end of its sacred teachings.

## The Wesleyan Sunday-school Union.

Most Canadian readers are familiar with the publishing enterprise of British Methodism only through the issues of the Wesleyan Conference Office, London. This does not give an adequate idea of its extent. Besides the extensive catalogues of the Primitive Methodist, New Connection, Bible Christian and other branches of the Methodist family, the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday-school Union has a fine catalogue of books specially adapted for Sunday-schools.

This society has splendid premises in the very heart of London, 2 and 3 Ludgate Circus Buildings, as well as at the old City Road, where John Wesley began his publishing a century and a half ago. Their books are well edited, well printed and bound, and many of them handsomely illustrated, and may safely be accepted by our schools as being in harmony with the doctrines and polity of Methodism, and as being instinct with religious teaching, with the very marrow and fatness of the Gospel. The prices range much lower than those of American publications of the same grade of excellence.

The first of a recent batch of their books which we pick up is,

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