

happiness depends on knowing and doing that will of God—if these things are true—then must that knowledge be of the best importance. This we, the people of Ontario as a whole believe, and therefore we demand that our children be taught this Book of God.

But the importance of the Bible may be conceded, and yet we may be told that what we urge is aside from the question; and that although not read in the day-school, the Bible should be, and is, taught in the family and Sabbath school; and that the church and the parent, not the state, should have to do with religion. Our reply must be brief. (1). *Parents* should educate their children, not the state nor the church, and *they* should see that the education given by the teachers they employ is a Christian education. Now our system recognises a certain amount of Scripture teaching and of religious worship in our schools, and we only ask that the amount be proportionate to the supreme importance of Divine truth, and that the liberty which we enjoy, (See Memorandum by Minister of Education, May, 1878,) be used by our citizens generally. As to what Sabbath schools can do, we shall just quote from the Canada Educational Directory of 1876. "If the Christian community believes that the rising generation will receive a thorough grounding in the truths of

their religion, and a due impression of their importance, by what they learn one hour a week in the Sunday school, they are in danger of being much mistaken. Much of the Sunday school teaching, as well as that of the parent, is vague, indefinite, and inefficient. Sunday schools may be better than they were, but an hour a week can scarcely be considered enough, even if the teaching were much better than it is. There is enough happening around us to make it the duty of those who believe in the restraining influences of religion to examine whether all that is possible is being done to strengthen and promote that influence on the rising youth of both town and country." These are mighty words, and every one who has to do with our advanced scholars will appreciate the expression of the head master of one of our Collegiate Institutes who was astounded at the ignorance of Scripture history shown by those who were studying Milton, preparatory to the highest examinations in the school.

Space compels us to close abruptly and to leave much unsaid, and we conclude with the words of the Honourable the Minister of Education. The Bible, if properly used, "will improve the character of our youth, and form a community distinguished not only for its intelligence, but for its fair dealing and law abiding and moral qualities."