

hear men speak of it. At teachers' meetings of different kinds, in different localities, the need of more definite religious instruction is brought forward. It is an error to say that the teachers are indisposed to impart such instruction. I have been present at a meeting of teachers where, without a dissenting voice, it has been declared that religious teaching up to a certain point was actually given, and that measures should be taken to give it more fully and systematically.

Doubtless there are difficulties in the way; but there are no difficulties which could not be removed if the matter were taken seriously in hand. There are certain points on which we are all substantially agreed: we are all ready to teach Old and New Testament history and a morality based upon the words of Christ. Even J. S. Mill declared that an unbeliever could not teach a better morality than this. If more than this is desired, it might be imparted by the clergy of different denominations to the children of their own communions. If less were desired, if any parents wished that their children should receive no religious instruction, then a Conscience Class might be provided for such exceptional cases, and the children thus removed from religious teaching might be set to some other lesson while the others were engaged in that way. That something of the kind will be carried through before long I am quite convinced. I appeal to the members of this Society to use their great and legitimate influence, so that the work may be done in the best possible manner.

It has been said that there is something inconsistent in our having a department of Canadian Literature, since it can be regarded as only a branch of English literature.

But this is not strictly the case, and, even if it were so, we should still have not unimportant functions to discharge in more ways than one.

In the first place, we have a history of our own, a history full of interest and even of romance; and the work done in regard to this history is of great value as history and as literature. It is hardly necessary to refer to the work of Parkman, who, although not a countryman of our own, has won the right, and more than the right, to be an honorary Canadian by his splendid contributions to the past history of our country. In the fulness, carefulness, and impartiality of his researches he has left hardly anything to be desired. Those who may follow him will have but the merest gleanings of the field which he reaped; and the form in which he has presented the story of the country is as attractive as the matter of the story is trustworthy. He has gone beyond our thanks or our appreciation; but the memory of his work will be fresh when this and many generations shall have passed away.

We cannot have many Parkmans in any country, and Canada is too young to hope for many such for years to come. Yet we are not without diligent and successful laborers in the same field, who have made contributions of permanent value to the records of the past. Among these a high place of honor must be assigned to a member of our own body, the late Dr. Kingsford, a man who, after a long and busy life, devoted to labors and interests the most varied, consecrated the closing years of his sojourn here to the accomplishment of a work which should tell the story of Canada, in full detail, from the earliest times to the union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841. If we cannot claim