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TEACHING THE BIBLE IN OUR HIGH SCHOOLS.

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It is not only desirable, it is imperative, that the citizens of this country should be well acquainted with the Scriptures.

The citizens of this country, of every country claiming to be a Christian country, and more especially of every Anglo-Saxon country, should be well acquainted with the letter and the spirit of the Bible. More than any other book on literature, shall I say more than all other literatures combined? it has to do with our religious ideas, our morals, our laws, our rights, our liberties, our aspirations, our literature, our modes of thought, our forms of speech. No man or woman who wishes to be in touch with what is most earnest and potent and real in this progressive age can afford to remain in ignorance of the contents of this wonderful book, for here we have revealed the source and sustaining power of all our progress; and unless our youth are kept imbued with the principles taught in the Bible the salt will lose its savor and national corruption will be the result.

II. The present means of Biblical instruction are very inefficient.

There are incontrovertible grounds for asserting that the rising generation of citizens of the Province of Ontario are growing up in comparative ignorance of this noblest, most indispensable of all literatures, and there are not wanting many signs of an increasing disregard for the morality inculcated by the Bible. Why is this so? The present means of instruction are quite inadequate and ineffective. Parents, as a rule are too much engrossed with other affairs, and are sadly indifferent to their first duty, the moral and religious upbringing of their children. The pulpit, with few exceptions, is a stranger to expository preaching, so useful for conveying the meaning and spirit of whole chapters or books and for inculcating Scripture teaching in relation to the common duties of life. The young people's societies in connection with the Churches, which have flourished so remarkably of late years, have done a useful work, but little of it has been in the field of serious Bible study. The Sunday school, on which the whole burden of the religious education of our youth seems to be thrown, is simply