

he says; I indignantly deny that I say any of these things—that I do any of these things. But he knows they are being done, and he proposes to profit by them. The *Mail* says that he must act on the line it marks out; that if he wins, “the intelligent public opinion” by which he wins will ensure such and such results. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) And the other day, I think at Guelph, he went so far as to adopt a portion of the cries, and to speak of a “mutilated Bible.” Now, what is it all about? The subject may be divided into two parts. There were some slight amendments made in the provisions of the Separate School law, the principal ones made two Parliaments ago, unobjected to by the Opposition, unobjected to by the press, unobjected to by the people, unobjected to at each of the two general elections which succeeded, unobjected to during this whole interval of nearly eight years, and only now brought up to serve as an election cry, in the hope that, by a sudden stroke, by hurling forth these misrepresentations, and creating a cloud of passion and prejudice, before there is time to meet and to dissipate it, they may overbear sense and reason and knowledge and fair play. (Cheers.) So far as I can judge (except perhaps as to one trifling point which has been raised in this city, and in respect of which anything that may have been overlooked can, as has been explained, be easily amended, the question, in one contingency, of a difference in the two rates), these changes are entirely unobjectionable. The second is the question of

#### THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

I ask leave to speak to you on this question as one who has taken a deep interest in the question, and even had something to do with the steps which resulted in the present arrangement. How was it two or three years ago? The five thousand Public School teachers in Ontario had the power to read the Bible in the schools. Of these, many were young; many were not specially trained in the making of proper selections for the purpose from the Bible; some were not very specially devout; some were not very specially discreet; and that being the condition of things, in about one-half of our Public Schools, and one-half alone, there was, speaking in the large and by comparison, and of course with creditable exceptions, a comparatively perfunctory and desultory, and not a regular or orderly, reading of some portion of the Word of God. And in the other half of the schools there was none. The Protestant Churches of Ontario, about that time, took up this subject and called for an improvement. The great denominations spoke; the Methodist Conference spoke, the Presbyterian Assembly spoke, the Church of England Synods,