

you are indifferent as to the example and powerful influence which the school-room cannot but exert for evil, even if there be no direct teaching opposed to God and morality. Non-religion is irreligion; no morality is immorality; where the positive element of good is wanting, the positive element of evil is present. Yet again: "Our teachers are not competent to teach the Bible and Christian morals." Answer: Then make them fit. Let these subjects be made part of the Normal and Model School studies. No more interesting subject can engage the attention of intelligent, ingenuous youths, and none will be prosecuted with more delight. If the result should be that some, whose opinions and practices are at variance with religion and morality, withdraw from the profession, it will be no loss to our nation and to the cause of righteousness; others will be found to their place. The instructors of youth ought to be men and women who fear God and live uprightly. As a class they are such now, and if their training was improved, and conscience as well as intellect was instructed, the school-room would become a potent instrumentality for the promotion of righteousness and the suppression of immorality and crime. In this direction there is room for improvement, and most respectfully would we suggest to the Minister of Education and to the Legislature of Ontario, if any changes are to be made in the administration of our school system, the introduction of lessons from Scripture into our reading books, beginning with the simplest extracts in the Third Book, giving more difficult passages in the Fourth, and some of the magnificent oracles from Job, Isaiah, and the Apocalypse in the Fifth Book. This is feasible. Also, it may be well to consider how our teachers, while attending the High Schools, Normal and Model Schools, may be instructed in Christian morals and the best methods of teaching the same. "Righteousness exalteth a nation," but how shall the people know without a teacher? Our children are suffering for lack of the highest knowledge. It is in vain to try to roll the responsibility on Churches and Sabbath schools. They reach a small portion of the people, and that feebly. They are not national institutions—not under the control of the nation. The God of nations will hold the nation as such responsible, and in the awful language of the prophet, "The nation and kingdom that will not serve Him shall perish; yea, these nations shall be utterly wasted."—*The Canada Presbyterian*.

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### TOO MANY SOCIETIES,

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"There are too many societies. Attendance upon the hulf of them would involve too great a tax upon the time and pockets of all but persons of absolute leisure and abundant means. Their multiplication has gone so far as to involve a waste of time and money and business energy. So much of these elements are absorbed in this way as to weaken the large moral, philanthropical and Christian movements of the time. The columns of the newspapers are cumbered with quarterly reports and list of officers with high sounding titles, such as have no fitness and no proper place in this practical business age."—*Daily Telegraph, St. John*.