

municipal and social capacity have warmly seconded the efforts of our representatives, to place the comfort and entertainment of our visitors beyond peradventure.

We hope that many of our readers may embrace the rare opportunity of being present at some of the meetings of the Association, and of coming into contact with their professional brethren who have done much to make the name of teacher and professor honoured throughout the world. It may here be mentioned that the American Association for the advancement of science announced to meet in Philadelphia early in the season, has postponed its meeting until September 4th, in order to allow an interchange of courtesies between the two Associations. Circulars have been sent to the leading scientific societies abroad, inviting them to send delegates to the Philadelphia meeting. It is not unlikely that the Philadelphia meeting will be largely international in its character, and that an effort will be made to form an International Scientific Association. This meeting of the phalanxes of science in two cities whose every monument tells of international strife is an event that, amid the rude bickerings of political conflict and at an epoch when a murderous propagandism finds its home in the native country of one association and its victims in that of the other, is like a tender strain heard above the 'elemental wars. The influence of these meetings must be momentous. Upon politics it may for the present be infinitesimal. The voice of any of the Nine has but small charm for the lobbyist and the dynamitard. But upon the intellectual life of the continent, the influence will be immense, and in its blessings education will have a conspicuous share.

THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

The question of the Bible in the public schools has been brought to the front by the address of the Hon. E. Blake, Chancellor of the University of Toronto, at its annual commencement, and by the interchange of courtesies—a new thing, by the way, and to

be recognized as a long step towards a larger union than has yet been thought of—between the Diocesan Synod of the Church of England and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Toronto the other day, during which this subject came up. Mr. Blake's proposal is that a selection shall be made by the heads of the various denominations, Protestant and Catholic, of passages of Scripture, which it shall be the duty of every public school master to have in daily use for reading and recitation by the pupils, and that the school hours shall be shortened on one or two days in the week, that the ministers of the various denominations may have the opportunity of giving religious instruction to the children of their several flocks who may be in the public school.

We regard the latter proposal as an improvement on the Regulation at present in force that such instruction if given is to be given after school hours, which is to make religious instruction a species of punishment. The present rule is a dead letter both in city and country. If changed as Mr. Blake suggests, it might be taken advantage of to some extent in the city and town schools; but it is scarcely possible that clergymen in rural districts could overtake this work. The schools are too widely scattered for it to be done to any purpose.

All good citizens should hail the former proposal with pleasure. If we are not to have the Bible itself read—as we have all along contended it should be—under Departmental regulation as a part of the work of each day, the next best thing is such a selection of passages as will teach the great spiritual doctrines and the leading moral precepts of the Holy Word. We see no reason why all should not unite on this. As we said, we prefer the Book in its entirety, but shall give our vote for even a part of it. What we desire is that the Bible should be recognized by the Department as one of the books to be read, and by the Department placed in every school, unless the trustees of any section should wish to exclude it. Failing the whole Book, let us have the selections.