

injury to society in general, likely to accrue from the want of schools for the rising generation of the Province, and the utter impossibility of providing them, especially in the new settlements, from private contributions, satisfied also that it is the duty of every wise and beneficent Government to provide, for all classes of its subjects, the means of a sufficient Education, do, in perfect reliance on the wisdom of this House, most earnestly pray that the provision of such means may be amongst its earliest deliberations.

That petitioners, while they are anxious to promote, throughout the Province, the diffusion of general knowledge, are, in their own minds, convinced that knowledge, to be productive of any real benefit or substantial good to the people, must be guided by the unerring wisdom of God, as revealed in His Word.

That further, petitioners, at the same time that they respect the rights of conscience in their fullest extent, do yet consider the Bible as the most sacred of God's gifts to man,—a gift which they would not willingly see denied, or even in part withheld from the rising youth of the Province—That humbly also, but conscientiously, believing that the Bible, as given by God must be received as a whole, and cannot without rashness or detriment be either added to or diminished from—inasmuch, as all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is therefore declared to be profitable in various ways and for various purposes, petitioners consider that they would ill discharge their duties as christians, and consequently as believers in the whole book of Revelation, if they did not deprecate, in any contemplated establishment of schools, every attempt to introduce into them extracts, only, from the holy scriptures, whereby the word of God would be abridged and mutilated, and the imperfect selections of uninspired men be substituted for the inspired word of the Almighty, expressly revealed for man's benefit and guidance.

Wherefore petitioners humbly pray that not only may the Bible, according to the received translation, be recognized as the class book to be universally taught in all public schools and seminaries throughout the Province in which Protestant children shall receive their Education; but that it may be put into the hands of all such scholars in its full and unabridged state, and that no part of it may be withheld from them.

*Ordered*—That the said petition do lie upon the table.

Petition from President and directors of Canada Fire Assurance Company praying for an Act to incorporate them

A petition of the President and Directors of the *Canada Fire Assurance Company*, was presented to the House by Mr. *Black*, and the same was received and read; setting forth:—That a large number of the citizens of *Quebec* have associated themselves together for the purpose of insuring against losses by fire, under the name of the "*Canada Fire Assurance Company*;"

That since the formation of this association, in the year 1840, they have transacted business to a very large extent, and still continue to do so.

That the capital of the said Company amounts to £100,000, divided into 4000 shares of £25 each, of which £58,000 has been subscribed and taken up, and five per cent thereon paid up, which, with an additional five per cent, to be called in forthwith, will make ten per cent on the amount of capital subscribed.

That the said association allows to its stockholders an abatement or discount of thirty three and a third per cent upon the premiums of the insurances they make with the said Company.

That owing to the small amount of each share, a portion of which only is required to be paid in, viz. ten per cent, it will be in the power of every proprietor, in the City of *Quebec*, to become a stockholder, and thus ensure his property at the lowest possible rate; an advantage not to be