

a time has been by mistake suspended; we ask for no innovation, but for a return to the original and better state of things.

2. The vast majority of our citizens wish the Bible to be taught in our schools. The Bible has not been *legislated* out of our schools; no government is strong enough to propose such a measure. It has only been *quietly* excluded, and then, by "the consensus of enlightened opinion" which regulates these matters, it is allowed to remain out and is relegated to the church and Sabbath school. Every denomination of Christians would rejoice to see the Bible restored to its proper place in our schools. A few individuals object on the grounds already considered; and there is a handful of avowed infidels who have had the audacity, in their publications, "to protest against the permission of the use of the Bible in the public schools, on the ground of its being a non-sectarian book, as a manifest evasion of the truth, and a wilful disregard of the equal religious rights of the people," and to demand "that all religious exercises should be prohibited in the public schools." How small the number of such must be, will appear from last census. According to it we find, that after excluding Roman Catholics, and those returned as "religion not given," the entire number of Jews, Pagans, Mahomedans, Atheists, Deists, and those of "no religion" in Ontario, is not 8000. That is to say, for one citizen who may be supposed to object as above, one hundred and sixty desire the use of the Bible. Ought so small a minority to dictate to the vast majority of our citizens? Or should these be deprived of what they deem an inestimable privilege, because one in a hundred and sixty does not regard it as such? It is intolerably unjust; and the more so, that by virtue of a conscience clause in the law, no child

is required to hear the Bible read, or to be present at a religious service, against the wish of his parent or guardian.

It may further be well to learn from themselves the aim of those opposers of Bible truth. Here are their words: "The members of this Association reverse the orthodox obligation which insists on trying and praying for power to believe. We pledge ourselves to discourage belief, and encourage doubt, as necessary in the investigation of truth." This is plain speaking, and we ask: are Protestant Christians prepared, at the demand of such men, practically to renounce the revealed will of God, and by their acquiescence in its exclusion from our schools, to have their children trained up in the belief that God's word is of doubtful obligation? But one answer can be heard from every Christian home: "God forbid." Up then and act.

3. The Bible lies at the foundation of the British constitution and law; and is the bulwark of liberty and only safeguard against anarchy. We need not tarry to dilate on this point. Our beloved Queen and her advisers, by many a worthy word and deed, have illustrated it. The coronation oath, the oath of allegiance, the laws regarding an established church, the Sabbath, marriage, evidence in courts, as well as those against Atheism, licentiousness, perjury, &c., all more or less directly rest on the authority of the higher law of God. In our own Ontario, a decision given last year in the Court of Appeal by Chief Justice Moss, which affirmed the right of the municipal authorities of Napanee to refuse the use of public property—the Town Hall—for the purpose of proclaiming Atheistical and Infidel sentiments, was based on the fact that our law assumes the truth of Christianity. Surely then our children should be taught that book