

he quoted the opening statement of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." "That's the place to stop," he said. "Now let your geologic ages roll on; they don't bother us a bit." He dwelt upon the unity of the Bible, showing that it had been written by forty different men, some of them kings, some of them fishermen. It was written in three different languages, and the writing of it was spread over fifteen hundred years. Yet through it all was the one message—men dead in sin, to be redeemed through Jesus Christ. How could that be accounted for except by Divine inspiration? He dwelt upon the value of the Bible as an intellectual study, and on its value to men as spiritual beings; and closed an address of marvellous eloquence in a peroration with the almost breathless attention of his audience, asking them to love and cherish the Bible.

## HOME LIFE.

Rev. H. F. Bland, Kingston, delivered an address on the subject of "Home Life, its Hindrances and Helps." Going briefly over the hindrances, he mentioned formal religion on the part of parents, looseness of Sabbath observance, speaking depreciatingly in the children's presence of absent persons, and even of the ministry and the Church, amusements of a doubtful character, dancing, card playing, and pernicious literature. Among the helps were proper appreciation of the possibilities bound up in children, systematic culture, and patience in waiting for results. He showed also what the child should be taught, emphasizing particularly prayer and obedience.

## DR. MEREDITH ANSWERS QUESTIONS.

The "question drawer" was opened, and Rev. Dr. Meredith gave the answers. The first question was as to the means of making the library profitable and interesting to all, as to the purchase of books, and the managing of the institution. His recommendations were:—"Make a careful selection of books; don't buy the books in a lot, but as they come out; thus you can make a better selection, and you have fresh books coming in all the time. As to the model librarian, there's no use drawing models; get the best man you can."

In reply to the question, To what extent is Sunday-school teaching taking the place of religious instruction in the home, and what remedy would you suggest? he said: "Do you suppose that the parents who throw their responsibility on the Sunday-school would take care of the religious training of their children, suppose there wasn't a Sunday-school in the world? Two-thirds of the parents in Canada are not able or are not willing to give their children religious instruction. You Sunday-school teachers have to give a great many of the children the only religious teaching they get. Be careful how you do it."

Would you bring class books into the class? "I understand by that text books and helps, and so on. No, I wouldn't. I make these things myself, and yet it is an abomination to

me to see one bring a paper into the class and read off the questions I have written."

Ought I to take advantage of the talents for review of the lady teachers? "Why not? We are getting over the idea of literally interpreting Paul's word about women keeping silence in the Church. Three-quarters of the members in our Church are women, and we find that they have about as much sense and more piety than the men."

The unruly boy question was put in several forms by different members. "This is one of the most difficult problems the Superintendent has to deal with. I wouldn't let a boy run the school or me. In a quiet, loving way, I would have order, if it took off the roof of the house. I wouldn't put a boy out if it was possible to avoid it, but I would put ten boys out if it was necessary to save the school."

Would you give prizes for learning Scripture? "I don't know why you shouldn't. I have a little red Testament I got for learning five hundred verses. I have the verses, too. I value the verses much more than I do the red Testament."

A question respecting the time when a child could be converted was answered at some length and with great energy. "Just as soon as he can sin. Do you suppose God left a hiatus between the time when sin is possible and the time when conversion is possible? I don't. I am a heretic, you know. I don't believe that the childhood of the world belongs to the devil. I believe that it belongs to Christ. The Church of Christ is fortunately waking up to the necessity of taking care of the young. It won't do to leave the children alone until they grow up, and then bring them into the Church by means of great revivals. The Master, we are told, carries the lambs tenderly in His arms. The Church has hitherto taken care of the old sheep and let the young lambs go."

## CHRISTIAN MANHOOD.

Rev. Dr. Carman, Belleville, discussed "The responsibility of the home and the school in securing a higher standard of Christian Manhood." The central thought in the subject was manhood. To give a clearer conception of manhood, he would fence it round with negatives. It was not brutality, sensuality, vulgarity, puerility, nor effeminacy; nor was it confined to any grade or kind or clime. He dwelt upon the national and epochal types of manhood, giving examples. His object in all this was to get at the world's idea of manhood. Even the religions of the world had their typical men. Many would look upon the Christian types as weak and womanly. He went over a list of Christian virtues, and contrasted them with the popular idea of manhood. What energies were at work moulding manhood? In the first place, our institutions. Our municipal institutions, established by Robert Baldwin; our educational system, founded by Egerton Ryerson, made those men, though dead, teachers of the whole country. Homes, surroundings, and prejudices were means of forming character. But to secure a high type of manhood they