

the children in passing from standard to standard acquire an intelligent knowledge of the Bible especially the New Testament. The parents have shown a very great desire that their children should be present at the schools during the time given to religious instruction; and out of the parentage representing 200,000 children under the School Board of that vast city, it is a very significant fact that *only fifty* parents withdrew their children during the time religious instruction was being given. It is likewise a satisfactory and remarkable circumstance, that during the seven years in which the present rules as to Biblical instruction have been in force in London, not an instance has been known of a complaint from a parent against any attempt on the part of the teachers to introduce sectarian or denominational doctrines into their religious teaching.

We look on the gift of Mr. Peek to the London schools, as one of the most enlightened deeds of Christian benevolence on record in our day. Through the kindness of the Tract Society the donor's money yields ten per cent, each year in Bibles at subscribers' prices. The interest of Mr. Peek's five thousand pounds is four thousand Bibles each year for ever. It is not often money is laid out to such account; for it is not only that four thousand Bibles are sent out on their beneficent mission to be read and no doubt retained by many of the scholars through life, as a pleasant and honorable reminiscence of school days; but the struggle for obtaining these Bibles animated during the whole year the breasts of nearly 100,000 competitors in the great city, sending them to search the Holy Scriptures day after day, and introducing the Bible, and searchings of it, into thousands of homes where, otherwise, the blessed book might have for ever remained a stranger. Eternity alone can compute the interest in spiritual blessings, compounded a thousand fold, that springs from Mr. Francis Peek's fund for Bible prizes. But this is not all. The experience of the London Board in the matter of religious education has settled, and that without any trouble at all, a question which, looked at from a distance, seemed difficult, if not impossible, of settlement.