

nation over the telephone. The Vice-Chancellor of the University gladly acceded to the arrangement. An extensive call over the trunk wires was arranged the questions were asked at Oxford, and the answers given by the sick undergraduate seventy miles away. Ample precautions were taken at the Midland end of the wire to ensure the utmost fairness of the examination.

But it is in the household and the domestic circle that the telephone is likely to find its fullest expression during the next few years. Not long ago a Georgian newspaper stated that the town of Milner was "crying for a telephone system. She had to have it. By the time a native walks from one end of the street to another to convey a message he is too tired to work any more that day." Maybe the modern housewife will find that when she has walked to the basement to give orders to the cook about the dinner she also will be too tired to work. Hence she will prefer the ease and luxury of a telephone system. Think for a moment what would be possible if the dream came true of a telephone in every room, and every house were connected up with every other house and shop in any particular district or town. What time, labor, and temper would be saved, for the telephone, properly used at its best, is not the nerve-racking instrument of torture it is often supposed to be. The lady of the house would be able to give all her orders to the tradespeople without the trouble of going over her own doorstep and spending so much time, often uselessly, in the wearying process of "shopping." All her social arrangements could be made without writing a single letter or the expenditure of a single penny on postage

stamps. The doctor could be called up in case of sudden illness; the husband in the city would have no excuse of "urgent business at the office, my dear," for coming home late, and the fluster caused by the unexpected appearance of a friend to dinner, when the larder is low, would be no longer possible. In fact, the telephone, when fully established in the domestic circle, will be more of a boon and a blessing than a certain much-advertised pen. It will make business creatures of "the" sex, and what more could the (telephone) man desire.

There are hopes, perhaps nearer to realization than we imagine, of our being able to telephone far greater distances than is at present possible. Thousands of messages are constantly flying between London and Paris, and London and Berlin, and already a lady has been known to present herself at an English provincial exchange with a modest request to be allowed "to telephone a few words to India." A Transatlantic telephone is by no means such an idle dream as the Transatlantic cable appeared to be when it was first suggested, and one eminent engineer in America has predicted that within ten years it will be possible to talk under the ocean. By means of the recently invented Pupin coil, the voice travels as well underground as it does above the surface, and it is hoped that with its improvement ocean telephony will become an accomplished fact, and the merchant in London will be able to talk as easily with Pekin, San Francisco, or Sydney, as he does now with any town in the United Kingdom. By this means, the world will have shrunk within the compass of the human voice.—*Cassell's Magazine*.

The Bible in the Public Schools

A COUPLE of years ago the Ontario Sunday School Association appointed a strong committee, representing the different religious denominations, who waited upon the Education Department to urge the desirability of adopting the daily Scripture readings in connection with the International Sunday School Lessons, for use in the Public Schools of Ontario, but in vain. Since then most of these denominations in Synods, Presbyteries, Conferences and Conventions, have passed resolutions looking to the same end. The Ontario Sunday School Association in Convention at Kingston in October 1906, passed a resolution again recommending that these readings be adopted in the Public and High Schools of Ontario.

It is perhaps generally known that these daily scripture readings, in connection with the International Sunday School Lessons, are promoted by the great Sunday School Union of England, through an organization known as the International Bible Reading Association, otherwise known as the I.B.R.A. Like the International S.S. Lessons, the I.B.R.A. is thoroughly international and inter-denominational, operating in over 70 countries and embracing over 50 different religious denominations. Known and used in a majority of the homes in Ontario, and in nearly all the Sunday Schools, there could not seem to be a more satisfactory list of Scripture readings for the Public Schools.

In February last the writer, as Ontario Secretary of the I.B.R.A. was asked to lead in a movement to again bring these readings to the notice of the Education Department. The last report of the Minister of Education shows that 47 per cent. of the Public Schools of Ontario make no use of the Bible. Reliable information establishes the fact that in the 53 per cent. where the Bible is used, that often it is without method, in many cases the teacher perhaps reading where the book happens to open, or reading very irregularly. A deputa-tion waited upon the Public School Inspectors in session last April, and was well received. They appointed a committee to investigate and report. During the past summer the writer sent a letter to all the Public School inspectors in Ontario, proposing that they make a trial of the scripture readings referred to in the schools under their care, and that if they were agreeable to it, they distribute lists to their teachers when they visit and distribute the school registers in the Fall. Up to date fifty-one inspectors, or 66 per cent., have replied, asking for supplies for 6,314 teachers, or 72 per cent. of the total number of Public School teachers in Ontario. One inspector said he has been having these readings used in his schools. The Minister of Education has kindly written expressing his sympathy and well wishes. Surely such a re-

sponse is significant. Already requests have come to us from fifteen teachers that these list of readings be continued to them during 1908. Seven teachers have written to us and sent money for bibles, evidently not having one of their own, or not having one in their schools.

It is worth noting that these lessons are the same as are taught in nearly all the Sunday Schools in Ontario. In some lands the voice of the majority becomes law. The various religious denominations in Ontario have together appointed a representative committee to formulate a system of religious instruction in the Public Schools. The writer called upon some of the prominent members of this committee to secure their advice in regard to the use of the International readings referred to in the schools. Their approval could not have been more emphatic.

Now, we believe that if every religious organization, local or general, that has an opinion, will forward a resolution to the writer bearing on this matter, and the same presented to the Education Department, they would take action and provide every Public and High School teacher with at least the privilege of using these readings by supplying them. They could be in separate sheets and pasted in the school register, or perhaps be printed inside the cover of the register. We ask that expressions of opinion be sent by individuals and all religious organizations. School teachers and inspectors especially are invited to correspond.

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How Much a Boy is Worth

BY REV. J. P. BERRIE.

One head, one hundred dollars; two eyes, one hundred dollars; two ears, one hundred dollars; two hands, one hundred dollars; two legs, one hundred dollars. If a boy had all the gold in the world he could not buy these. How valuable a boy is can only be known by the Man he makes, and that will depend on how he uses his brains and his heart. If he loves God more than everything else, and uses his brains in God's service by helping to make himself useful to his fellow-boys and girls, he may multiply his capital until he becomes millions in value, and secure for himself true happiness here, and full life forever—eternal life. Let not any boy think he is poor because he has little, or not any money. "If happiness have not its seat and centre in the heart, you may be rich, or wise, or great; you never can be blessed."

Gibson, N.B.