

THE ROSS BIBLE A SIGN OF INFIDEL PROGRESS.

THOSE who charge us with having entered the field of politics because we object to politicians using the Word of God as an election campaign sheet, for such is the Ross Bible, seem to have learnt some of the art of the Jesuits by whom the present inroads upon Protestant rights are being engineered. They accuse us and our sympathisers with having brought on the discussion on the scrap book which is meant to push aside the Bible at a time to affect the elections, and therefore they argue, if "argue" has any meaning in such a matter, that our object was political. Then they demand that as the elections are over that we must cease to agitate against this political edition of the Bible. Against the first brazen assertion we put the fact that those who many months before the election demanded the use of the Bible in our schools, by such demand protested against any substitute for the Scriptures being adopted. The interference of the Papal authorities, with a well-known book in common use in the schools, excited a hot controversy long ago, a controversy which exposed the fact of there being then an arrangement in force between the Ross Bible party and the Romanist authorities, by which each were bound to do what the other required. Dr. Lynch objected to Marmion, and Marmion therefore was suppressed by the government. So that the subservience of the political party to the Papists was known and condemned long before the elections. But even granting that the attack on the Ross Bible was made prior to the elections in order to affect that event—pray why should we be silent at a time when our protest was most certain to be heard and to be effective? It seems we are to be put into this dilemma, if the Church is wronged, if Churchmen are robbed by a legal process designed to help Popish schools, if the Word of God is cast aside like an old hat for a new one of more modern style, we must not seek to arouse opposition to such wrong doing when the public mind is being directed to public affairs as they are at election times, lest we interfere with the politicians by whom these wrongs have been perpetrated! If it is desired that we keep silent *whatever politicians may do*, let this be boldly asked, and if this ridiculous demand cannot be made, then let it be confessed frankly that the doings of politicians are a legitimate topic for discussion, criticism, condemnation or commendation in a Church journal. We should like to see what would happen in Canada if school laws were enforced here, such as the liberals of France have put into operation there, *whereby every school in France is made avowedly atheistic—the Word of God not being allowed to be used*, or any religious phrase uttered in a public school. Would the religious press then be censured as having entered into politics if it lifted up an indignant cry against such a shameful regulation? But the Ross Bible movement is a large step onward to atheism, it is a sop to the power which has made atheism general

wherever it prevails, and atheists have accepted with open delight the Ross Bible movement as a concession to infidelity. On the 10th January, Mr. Watts, a professional atheist lecturer, said in Toronto that the recent elections in Ontario proved that the majority of the people of this province shared in the infidel's objections to the Bible. He said that they, the atheists, demanded that the Bible as a whole ought not to be used in the schools, and therefore they regarded the casting out of a large part of the Bible from the schools as a sign of progress towards atheism in Ontario. "The priests," he said, "sought to perpetuate the Bible and the Sabbath, because without these their occupation would be gone." We commend Mr. Watts' words to the consideration of those Presbyterian and Wesleyan "priests," who helped to give this atheist so much reason to rejoice over the progress of Ontario towards infidelity!

We also ask Mr. S. H. Blake and the dumb watchman he has gagged, of how they enjoy an avowed atheist lecturer repeating almost word for word his objections to the Word of God Teachers of Bible classes, Vice Presidents of the Bible society, preachers of the "Gospel," so-called, and Protestant champions may find an ample balm and recompense in political success for their seared consciences and their dishonored reputations. But who will repair the injury to the young done by their discovering that their most religious professions are mere words, while *the only real power*, controlling the souls and brains of the most active professors of Christianity is *political interest*?

For lecturers like Mr. Watts or Mr. Ingersoll we care little. But Christians who can take the Word of God and destroy its unity, emasculate its moral teaching, suppress its spiritual vitality to the level of Popery, in order to win the political support of Romanists, they are such a danger to the religious life of our people as we must regard with the deepest alarm.

It is with unfeigned delight that we note signs of a healthier tone in the people, manifested by the ejection of *the infidel's delight*, the Ross Bible, from a large number of Public Schools. From every school in the Province this miserable imposture would be kicked out but for political feeling, a certain class of politicians having taken their stand alongside the atheist lecturer, and are upholding the Ross Bible as a sign of progress—progress to infidelity.

Meanwhile the Romanist authorities are in high glee, they have dealt the Protestant Bible what they regard as a deadly blow, they have brought it into public dishonor. There will be no more indignant outcries at any burnings of the Scripture by Papal command, for say they, *the Protestants have practically destroyed their own Bible*, they have condemned it as unfit for school use, therefore unfit for family use, therefore unfit for use in divine service attended by the young. Into the joy of the Papist and the scornful delight of the atheist over the Ross Bible, no Churchman can enter.

THE FRENCH MOVEMENT AGAINST CHRISTIANITY.

THE following article is taken from the *St. James' Gazette*, a London journal of great ability and influence. The article is worthy of careful attention as the same forces are active in Canada as in France, and the results of those forces will be here the same. Popery will breed scepticism, that will become atheism. Popery will seduce certain classes of politicians who will do its work *until the hour of revolt strikes*, then will come grave disturbance in our peaceful country. Forewarned is forearmed. Let those who know nought of history, nought of Rome in her various manifestations in Europe, help her to acquire domination in Canada, as some Protestant religious papers are now doing, for us, representing the Church of England, the most ancient antagonist of Popery, to be silent would be the basest treason.

"The rapid growth in France of a movement which threatens to end in a direct persecution of the Christian religion is one of the most remarkable, as it is one of the most unexpected, phenomena of our day. So far as the character of a nation can be judged from its government, there was nothing in the public history of France to prepare us for an attack on religion in its Catholic and Christian form. Both the Republic of 1848 and the Second Bonapartist Empire were exceedingly anxious not to appear priest-ridden; and yet it was a French Republican chief of the Executive who first interfered to protect the Pope against the people of Rome; it was a French Emperor who garrisoned Rome for years against the Italians; and when the present Republic sprang out of the war with Germany, Prince Bismarck justified the expulsion of the chief religious orders from the German Empire, and the enactment of the Falck Laws in Prussia, by the pretext that there was a close alliance between the French nation and the government of the Catholic Church. Yet all at once a number of signs appear that the majority of Frenchmen are profoundly anti-Catholic. It is probably true that the precise movement which is becoming so formidable had a very small number of originators—not more perhaps than the English movement for Irish Home Rule. But while the Separatist proposal in this country instantly provoked the most violent opposition, the proposal to forbid the clergy to take part in teaching, and the broad hints that something worse is in store for them, appear to be received with indifference, which is rapidly assuming the look of popular favor.

There are a few circumstances which go a little way to explain the toleration of approaching persecution which seems to characterise France. France is the only country in Europe in which one whole generation grew up without any sort of religious education. This was the generation which passed its childhood during the Reign of Terror, and which afterwards grew into the soldiers of Napoleons armies. The veterans of the French conquest of Europe were long known as centres of