

and by an Order in Council, passed on the 16th of December last, it is declared that these Scripture Readings are to be used daily in every public and high school. True it is that these portions of Scripture are to be read without comment or explanation, and I could heartily wish that this were otherwise—but nevertheless, may we not humbly trust that the Spirit of God speaking through His Word, will so impress that Word upon the hearts of the little ones, that the good seed may bring forth abundant fruit hereafter.

Certainly, if these regulations are faithfully carried out, we shall lay a surer and more solid foundation for the future happiness and prosperity of this community than by the most perfect system in other respects of secular education, but in which the Bible is ignored and its teachings neglected.

I cannot close my remarks without alluding for a moment to those members of the Society whose names are mentioned in the Report as having been taken from us by the hand of death since our last annual meeting. Among our Vice-Presidents, Professor Buckland and the Rev. Dr. Fuller, the late Bishop of Niagara; and of our Directors, Mr. Samuel Rogers, Mr. F. A. Ball, and Colonel Moffatt. All of them, as the Report very truly states, highly valued members of the Board, and active workers in the Bible cause.

Nor can I omit another name, that of the late Mr. James Lesslie, who, though not latterly a director, was always a warm friend and liberal supporter of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

With all these gentlemen I had been on terms of friendly intimacy, but with the late Colonel Moffatt more especially I had been very closely associated for many years, and had, therefore, special opportunities of learning and appreciating his thoroughly christian character—unselfish to a degree—humble minded and unobtrusive, yet firm and manly in his support of what he believed to be the truth. The Bible cause had no more zealous supporter, nor every benevolent Christian work a readier helper, than Colonel Kenneth Moffatt.

There is one other subject which is alluded to in the Report, and which I cannot pass over. It is the loss which the Society has suffered in the resignation, in consequence of ill health, of the gentleman who for the last 10 years has filled the important office of Permanent Secretary, our friend Mr. Robert Baldwin. Mr Baldwin's appointment in 1875 gave great satisfaction to the members of the Society, because they believed him to possess special qualifications for the work, a belief which has been in every respect most fully and amply justified. I think too that there was a strong feeling of pleasure in the minds of many at seeing Mr. Baldwin more closely connected with the Society, bearing, as he does, the honoured name, and being the son of one who for so many years filled the President's Chair, and who to the end of a long life had ever evinced a deep interest in all the objects of the Bible Society.

It would be difficult to find any one whose heart was more thoroughly in his work than Mr. Baldwin. I need scarcely say that his resignation was accepted by the Board with extreme reluctance, and I am sure we all heartily re-echo the wish expressed in the report, that though no longer our Secretary, he may be spared to give us the benefit of his presence and counsel for many years to come.

I shall not detain the meeting any longer, but call upon the Secretary to read the Report.

The Rev. J. M. Cameron, seconded by Warring Kennedy, Esq., then moved the adoption of the Annual Report, which had been printed, and distributed in the pews; which was carried.

The Rev. W. L. Blackstock, seconded by James Brown, Esq., moved the first resolution:—"That thanks be given to the Officers, Committees, and