

of God, but afterwards wrote to Mr. Davis an autograph letter, in which he alluded in terms of warmest satisfaction to the work of the Society.

It is true that, notwithstanding all these cheering evidences of the progress of the Bible cause, we have still to lament that scepticism and infidelity are actively employed, undermining and unsettling the faith of many, not only in Europe, but even among those who are living in the very midst of Gospel light and in the enjoyment of Gospel privileges in our fatherland; and, I speak it with sorrow, there are some among us, even in Canada, who have suffered themselves to be led away by the shallow reasoning of infidel objectors. But while these things call for our earnest prayers on behalf of those who are thus deceived, yet there are also many hopeful signs of the times which may well lead us to thank God and take courage.

I believe that, in spite of much infidelity and scepticism in Britain, the teachings of the Bible have sunk deep into the heart of the nation. Never, I am persuaded, should we have witnessed such a spectacle as England presented a few months ago, of a whole people united in prayer to Almighty God for the life of their Prince, except among those who firmly believed in the blessed assurances of Holy Writ, that in "God's hands are the issues of life and death;" that "He is a God that answereth prayer;" and that "them that call upon Him with faith in the time of trouble He will hear." Again, I think we need not desire a more cheering proof that the Bible possesses a firm hold of the affections of the great body of the English people, than has been exhibited in the feeling evoked by the proposal lately made to exclude God's Word from the common schools of the country. I confess my heart warmed within me, as I read the spirit-stirring address of the noble President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, delivered at one of the public meetings called in reference to this most important subject, and on which occasion, he was supported by men of all ranks, and politics, and religious denominations; and I trust that we, in Canada, can with one mind heartily re-echo the sentiments expressed at that meeting, that we shall never consent to have a ban placed upon the Bible, and the teachers in our schools forbidden to read, or our children prevented from hearing, each day in their school life, the precious words of His Gospel, who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not."

If, again, we turn our eyes to our neighbours in the United States, we shall find a striking proof of the conviction forcing itself upon men's minds, that a place of instruction without the Bible is like a ship with-