

the Roman Catholics on the one hand, and those of the Agnostics and Secularists on the other, it will come to be a question whether we shall not be compelled to give up the "common school" altogether, and have schools established in which our own conception of education may be carried out. Such a result would be very much to be regretted; but it might be the less of two evils. Is there anything "domineering" or "tyrannical" in setting forth such claims as these on behalf of the majority?

Mr. Le Sueur's statement that "there is no State recognition of any particular theology" is true of Ontario, if by "particular" we understand *denominational*; but the State does "professedly" recognize "Christianity," and whatever "theology" that term covers, especially in connection with the public school system. This avowed recognition is the starting-point of a series of resolutions recently passed by the Toronto Ministerial Association, to which I am glad to call the attention of your readers. A large and representative Committee of that Association, after very full consideration of the matter, presented a report, which was adopted without dissent, to the following effect:

"Whereas the Compendium of Acts and Regulations affecting Public Schools declares that 'Christianity is recognized by common consent throughout this Province as an essential element of education which ought to permeate all the regulations for elementary instruction;' and whereas, Christian truth is thus confessedly the best basis of right conduct on the part of citizens in fulfilling the duties justly demanded by the State; and whereas, Christian truth can be most

effectively imparted by thorough and systematic Biblical instruction, your Committee recommend—

"1. That the present provision for devotional exercises and Scripture reading at the opening or closing of the school, or both, be continued.

"2. Also, for reasons set forth above, that systematic religious instruction form an integral and regular part of our Public School programme, in addition to the devotional exercises already prescribed."

[There were two additional resolutions which it is not necessary to quote, one suggesting three tentative schemes of Bible lessons, the other indicating that Biblical instruction shall be given by the responsible teachers of the schools.]

I believe that the preamble to these resolutions expresses the conviction of the great majority of the people of Ontario that "Christian truth" is "the best basis of right conduct on the part of citizens," and that the proposal to have "Biblical instruction" form "an integral and regular part of our Public School programme" will commend itself to their judgment. I heartily agree with Mr. Le Sueur in his abhorrence of "incantations," and for that very reason I shall be glad to have "systematic instruction" in Biblical truth instead of, or in addition to, the mere reading of a few verses in the hearing of the children. I do not deny that there are difficulties in connection with this important matter—difficulties growing out of the very greatness of the themes with which the Bible deals and out of the varying conceptions of "Christian truth" on the part of earnest and devout men; but I believe that if we are to avoid very serious perils these difficulties must be faced.