

to the old quarries, from which the great stoner of the Trilithon had been taken. It is about half a mile from the ruins, and there, almost cut out, lay a mightier stone than any we had seen, a squared block sixty-eight feet long, fourteen feet two inches high, and thirteen feet eleven inches broad! Its weight would be about eleven hundred tons, and there it lies unfinished, as its masons left it so long ago. One of our party rode up beside it and halted his horse, to be photographed with it, and horse and man looked small, indeed, beside this most massive work of stone-quarrying ever achieved by man.

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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1892.

A Crusade against the Sunday School Leaflet.

WE see it stated in the public press that the American Bible Society has organized a crusade against the *Sunday School Leaflet*. It is said that the *Leaflet* is to a considerable extent driving the Bible out of our schools, and so lessening the acquaintance of the children with the Bible as a whole. Dr. Alex. MacLean, the Secretary of the Society, makes the statement that he believes it to be a fact "that the greater number of the Sunday-school children know little or nothing of the Bible as a book, and cannot tell what belongs to the Old Testament or what to the New; that it is too often the case that the only Bible in the school is the one on the Superintendent's desk, and that it is not only the

children that are ignorant of the Bible, but the teachers themselves."

We do not know how far what Dr. MacLean says is true of the United States, of which he writes, but we believe that it is notoriously false as far as regards Canada. It may possibly be that there are schools in Canada where this is true, but we do not know of a single instance, and do not believe that there is one. The figures which Dr. MacLean gives of the circulation of the issues of the American Bible Society go far themselves to confute his estimate. He states that the total circulation last year of the Society was 936,578 Bibles, nearly a million—being, he says, manifested an inadequate supply for the eight millions of scholars. But those eight million scholars have not had to wait for the year 1891-92, to be supplied with Bibles. For years they have been receiving large supplies of these books; and being strongly bound and only used about fifty hours in the year, they may well be estimated to last eight or ten years, perhaps longer. So that his own figures show that more books are issued by this Society alone, to say nothing of the Bibles published by the Baptist and other houses, than are sufficient to equip all the Sunday-schools in America.

There is nothing gained by over-statement. We do not believe that the Bible has been excluded by the *Sunday School Leaflet*. We know that in most of our best schools, Bibles are provided for the scholars, and each scholar is urged to have a Bible of his own. Never since the world began was so much light focussed upon the holy Scriptures. Never were such Bible helps furnished to both teacher and scholar. Never were such vast sales of Teachers' Bibles and Oxford Bibles with copious concordances, maps and other helps. The best of these, we are proud to say, are of English manufacture, and are sold in large quantities in the United States as well as in our own country.

Having said this, we are willing to admit that there is still to too large a degree an acquaintance of the Bible as a whole, that in many cases it is quite possible that the *Lesson Leaf* is a substitute therefor. But that is the abuse and not the proper use of the *Leaf*. And cheap as Bibles are it is possible that in some places, but for these lesson leaves—which are sown upon the wings of the wind by millions, and which like the leaves of the tree of life "are for the healing of the nations"—there would be no knowledge of the Scriptures at all. We have seen in the heart of the "Black Belt," in Alabama, poor Mission Sunday-schools among the colored people, where these leaflets carried the Word of life to lonely cabins in remote plantations where it never could reach otherwise, and where the helps they afforded poor, unlettered, colored teachers have enabled them to break the bread of life with blessed results to the children under their charge. In our happy Canada, however, every child may, or should have his or her own Bible. If any school be too poor to get one otherwise, we believe that the