

by the parents and guardians of the children, shall have access to them for that purpose." "The Managers of Schools are also expected to afford convenient opportunity and facility for the same purpose on other days of the week. But where any course of religious instruction is pursued in a School during school hours, to which the parents of any of the children attending it object, the Managers are to make an arrangement for having it given to those who are to receive it at a stated time or times, and in a separate place; so that no children, whose parents or guardians object to their being so, shall be present at it."

The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland also observe in their Second Report, that—

"In the National Schools the importance of religion is constantly impressed upon the minds of the children, through the works calculated to promote good principles and fill the heart with love for religion, but which are so compiled as not to clash with the doctrines of any particular class of Christians. The children are thus prepared for those more strict religious exercises, which it is the peculiar province of the ministers of religion to superintend or direct, and for which stated times are set apart in each School, so that each class of Christians may thus receive, separately, such religious instruction, and from such persons as their parents or pastors may approve or appoint."

The Commissioners further explain the right of local Trustees or Patrons on this point :

"The Patrons of the several Schools have a right of appointing such religious instruction as they may think proper to be given therein; provided that each School shall be open to all religious communions; that due regard be had to parental right and authority; that accordingly, no child be compelled to receive or be present at any religious instruction to which his or her parents or guardians may object; and that the time for giving it be fixed that no child shall, in effect be excluded directly or indirectly from the other advantages which the School affords. Subject to this, religious instruction may be given either during the fixed school-hours or otherwise."

3. The foregoing quotations [which might be greatly extended] from the Irish Commissioners' Reports are made, because their system may be considered as the basis of the Canadian System—their books having been adopted and their methods of instruction having been introduced into the Provincial Normal School. That system is Christian, but not sectarian; secures individual right and denominational privileges, and is founded upon revealed truth. The General Lesson, hung up in every school of the Irish National Board, and carefully inculcated upon the Pupils, is recommended for universal adoption in Upper Canada, and is as follows:—

GENERAL LESSON.

"CHRISTIANS should endeavour, as the Apostle Paul commands them, 'to live peaceably with all men,' (*Romans*, c. 12, v. 18), even with those of a different religious persuasion.

"OUR SAVIOUR, CHRIST, commanded His Disciples to 'Love one another.' He taught them to love even their enemies, to bless those that cursed them, and pray for those who persecuted them. He himself prayed for His murderers.

"Many men hold erroneous doctrines; but we ought not to hate or persecute them. We ought to seek for the truth and hold fast what we are convinced is the truth: but not to treat harshly those who are in error. JESUS CHRIST did not intend His Religion to be forced on men by violent means. He would not allow His Disciples to fight for Him.

"If any persons treat us unkindly, we must not do the same to them; for CHRIST and His Apostles have taught us not to return evil for evil. If we would obey CHRIST, we must do to others, not as they do to us, but as we would wish them to do to us.

"Quarrelling with our neighbours, and abusing them, is not the way to convince them that we are in the right, and they in the wrong. It is more likely to convince them that we have not a Christian spirit.

"We ought to show ourselves followers of CHRIST, who, 'when He was reviled, reviled not again,' (*1 Peter*, c. 2, v. 23,) by behaving gently and kindly to every one."

4. For a more detailed exposition of this important subject, all parties concerned are referred to the '*Report on a System of Public Elementary Instruction for Upper Canada.*'"