

THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

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Editorial.

THE LONDON (ENG.) SCHOOL BOARD AND THE BIBLE.

 FEW years ago a London gentleman, Mr. Francis Peek, paid over to the general Fund of the Religious Tract Society the sum of £5,000 (\$25,000), on condition that the Society should give, year by year, Bibles and Testaments at subscribers' prices, to the amount of £500 (\$2,500) for prizes to scholars receiving instruction in the Holy Scriptures in the London School Board Schools* who should excel, at a voluntary examination, in Biblical knowledge. At the distribution of prizes in the Crystal Palace, in 1876, the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., presided, and Mr. Peek addressed the children† before the prizes were distributed. The gathering of children this last summer (1877) was, as formerly in the Crystal Palace on a Saturday in June. Four thousand were found entitled to Bibles out of 82,000 who had competed, all of whom had made 249 attendances during the year.‡ The Biblical instruction given in the schools of the London Board is said to be thorough and systematic, and so arranged that during six years of school life

* During its existence, up to November, 1876, accommodation had been provided for 126,943 children in the 145 new schools erected by the Board; while the total number of children under the control of the Board in schools of all kinds is 200,149, which is about the number in average attendance on all the Protestant schools of the Province of Ontario. Additional accommodation is being provided for 55,368 children in seventy-six schools in course of erection, 5,000 outcast children have been picked up off the streets and sent to industrial schools or training-ships. Ten new schools will be required annually.

† Mr. Peek's address, admirable for its spirit and simplicity, we give under the head of "Practical papers." He is a member of the London Board.

‡ Of the 212,483 pupils in average attendance in the public schools of Ontario, only 20,921 gave 201 attendances during the year 1876.