

which these misguided men, who have taken up arms against their Sovereign have entailed upon themselves ; yet, may we not thank God for the unselfish, unflinching devotion to duty, which our brave volunteers have displayed from the day they were called forth from their homes to this present hour.

Yes, my friends, and much more may we thank God for this also, that not only will these copies of His word, which this Society has furnished to our volunteers, be valued and appreciated by those to whom they have been sent ; but we know that the blessed teaching of that Holy Book has filled the heart and guided the life of many a brave young fellow now at the front ; and that in the case of those who have fallen, there are parents and friends, who have the best, the highest consolation that can be afforded to them in their deep sorrow ; that the son or brother taken from them, was not only loyal to his earthly Sovereign, but a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ, and was as ready to meet the last great summons, as he was the call of duty which led him to a soldier's grave.

There is a further duty though, which it seems to me devolves upon us in Ontario, arising out of these unfortunate events, and that is, to redouble our efforts to send forth the Gospel of Peace into these North-West Territories, so soon as the course of events shall afford an opening for doing so to good purpose.

How know we into how many hearts, now dull and hardened by ignorance and superstition, it may not, by God's blessing, find an entrance, or what may not be done by little and little, to send the bright rays of Gospel light into quarters where now darkness and error have sole sway.

In regard to the share which our Society is taking in sending forth the Bible into other lands, the report informs us, that we have sent nearly the same amount as last year, viz., a little over \$7,000 in free contributions to the British and Foreign Bible Society.

I shall not trespass upon your time in alluding to the work of the Parent Society during the past year—for doubtless this subject will be taken up by some of the speakers this evening—further than to mention this one fact, that their issues of God's word for the past year amounted to something like 3,118,000, of which nearly 1,000,000 are penny Testaments.

It may be in the recollection of some who were present at our last annual meeting, that I ventured to express the earnest hope on that occasion, that we, the members and friends of the Bible Society, if we really loved our Bible, and believed that to its teachings we owed all that was pure, and upright, and good in our social system, would not rest contented with anything less than that the teachings of God's Holy Book should form part and parcel of the education of the children of this country, and that in every public school and collegiate institute in Ontario, some portions of the Bible should be daily read by teachers and scholars.

I am most glad and thankful therefore that this most important subject of the study of the Scriptures and religious teaching in our public schools attracted, as you are all aware, the earnest attention last year of the Synod of the Church of England in this Diocese, of the Conference of the United Methodist Church of Canada, and of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and resolutions were passed in all these bodies agreeing to co-operate with each other in pressing the subject on the attention of the Government.

The result of all this was the formation of a Committee from these various bodies at the instance and under the direction of the Minister of Education, to consider and prepare a selection of Scripture Readings for the use of the Public and High Schools ; and now under the authority of the Department of Education, a very excellent selection has been drawn up and published,