

for the withdrawal of "Marmion" come from a scholar or student of letters. None would so fatally compromise his literary judgment. The *Globe's* statement that the work "was withdrawn at the request of High School Masters and Inspectors" is known to be false. It was a gross libel on the profession. The demand for its inhibition came solely from a prelate whose literary culture, we fear, is on a par with his toleration and his charity. Insults offered to the religious feelings of any portion of the community have, of course, a right to be resented. But in the present case, there has been nothing of this; and Scott's ecclesiastical anti-quarianism and his sympathy with, at least, the picturesque aspects of monastic life, should have saved him from the suspicion of aspersing the Church, or of writing against it with bitterness. In composing "Marmion," nothing, we may safely say, was further from Scott's mind than to have a fling at Rome. Whatever incidents he wove into the poem were those which served his art; though, as in his other writings, while he produced a work of fiction, we often find it to be, in some measure, at least, a fiction of history's own making. Careful of the morals of literature, he was, perhaps, not always careful of the morals of sect. This is all, however, that can be said against Scott; but to quarrel with him for this, is to quarrel with our better selves. Presbyterianism has as much to resent in Scott as has Roman Catholicism; yet why should either get angry at Literature's preserving a trace of phases in the development of each Church with which the present age has little sympathy. "Marmion," however, it seems to be necessary to tell the Minister of Education, is neither a "Decameron" nor a "Book of Martyrs." Its story is one of the glories of literature; and for purity, healthfulness, and bright narrative, it has hardly its peer in fiction.

The interdiction, at this time of day, of a classic like "Marmion," is as gross a literary outrage as was ever perpetrated. The Act of Mr. Crooks will gain for our educational administration a world's contempt. Already, his folly is earning abroad its meed of de-

risation. Some atonement has been made by the University Senate, in retaining the work on the College curriculum, and by the High School Masters, despite the Minister's order, in continuing to read the book with their pupils. Thanks to the Archbishop, the Minister, and the *Globe*, the task has to be undertaken with a delicacy which the folly of priest and politician has now rendered necessary. The irksomeness of this to the teacher is the direct result of the controversy, and part of the legacy of evil which Mr. Crooks's act has imposed upon the schools. The indirect results, who shall estimate? for few pupils will now study the book without repressing a nasty thought, or, it may be, taking a meaning from passages which neither their author nor any clean-minded man ever found in them. The whole affair is, in an extreme degree, sickening. Few public men have proved less worthy of their office than the Minister of Education; and no effort he can now make will set his folly right. Another such blow to the morals of the schools, and he will have undone the forty years' work of his predecessor. The evil his act has already entailed, it may take years to repair. But for the common sense of the people, Mr. Crooks's collusion with the Archbishop might have launched the country on a havenless sea of sectarian strife, and blasted in a moment the reconciling influences of recent years. Both ecclesiastic and politician ought to have been engaged in better work; and education and morality would have been the gainers. The Province may still bear with the fatuity of the Minister; but, assuredly, it will not brook the meddlesomeness of the Priest!

THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOL.

THERE is no doubt that Mr. Mowat was right in regarding as most important the petition lately presented to him by a body of clergy representing every Protestant church in the Province, with the sole exception, we believe, of the Baptists. There is much reason to fear that the rising generation is growing up without any definite moral train-