

that at all affects the force and relevancy of the facts stated by Principal Caven and myself. But lest my silence should be misconstrued as an admission that the lengthy disquisitions and captious questionings had any real relevancy and force, I claim the privilege of making a few additional remarks in the way of a brief review of the subject.

IF EVER THE BOTTOM COULD BE SAID TO HAVE FALLEN OUT

of any case, this can be truthfully predicted of the charge that the introduction of the "Scripture Readings" was a Roman Catholic scheme. The facts brought out in the controversy have completely confuted those who have urged this charge against the Minister of Education. A brief glance at the main facts of the case will conclusively show this to be so.

1. The Bible Readings finally adopted after some changes, were originally selected by Mr. Kerr, a staunch Protestant and a Conservative in politics, who consulted about the work with such men as Rev. Dr. Nelles, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, and Archbishop Lynch, before Mr. Ross knew anything of the matter.

2. The Ontario Teachers' Association and the representatives of the Protestant Churches both urged the Ontario Government to make a suitable selection of Scripture Readings for the use of schools.

3. The Minister of Education came to the conclusion that the best way of meeting these demands was by adopting such a selection of Bible Readings as Mr. Kerr had outlined and suggested.

4. He therefore printed and sent copies of these selections to each member of the different Church deputations, appointed by the Church of England and Presbyterian Synods and the Methodist Conferences, and also to leading clergymen of other religious bodies that had not sent deputations—among others to Dr. Castle, Archbishop Lynch, and Rev. Mr. Burton.

5. The Minister of Education then called the members of these different Church deputations together to consult them and to hear their judgment as to the publication of these Scripture Readings for use in schools.

6. As might be expected, there was some diversity of opinion among these gentlemen as to the extent to which religious instruction could be given in our Public Schools. But after a free conversation discussing these points, the conference,

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approved of the publication of the selections in book form, and appointed a sub-committee, representing the different Churches, to go over the work and revise it for publication. This was done with great care. The Minister of Education imposed no restraints on this committee.

7. Some time after the publication of the book, when an attempt was made in the *Mail*, for an evident purpose, to represent the Scripture Readings as a Roman Catholic project hostile to the Bible, the ministers who constituted the sub-committee of revision met together at Knox College and adopted an explanatory memorandum, which they signed and published. In this document they repudiate the false and unfair construction put upon the publication of the Readings, and mention several important advantages gained by the use of such Readings in our Public Schools. This memorandum was drawn up by the Rev. Provost Body, of Trinity College.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane,

of Brantford, in a letter published in the *Globe* of Dec. 2nd, after clearly reviewing the history of the introduction of the Scripture Readings into our Public Schools, says in conclusion:—

I still further regret that the Minister of Education has been so bitterly attacked, for what was recognized by the Ontario Government, on the united request of the Protestant Churches of Ontario, as the best solution of a vexed question, and needful for the training of our children in religious truth.

Brantford, November '30.

WM. COCHRANE.