

schools League was emphatically asserted in a report—often quoted by us—which was officially adopted, circulated, and recommended for action by the Presbyterian Synod in Dunedin on November 1, 1899. If the Bible-in-schools clergy were even a little in earnest, they would drop political agitation and set to work to fulfil the following weighty counsel contained in the Pastoral Letter addressed two months ago 'to the Members of the Methodist Church of Australasia in New Zealand':

'Let there be a revival of Bible-reading in the home, and let the spirit and act of worship become habitual, and be looked upon as an essential part of the daily programme. With the home life clean and helpful and inspiring, the atmosphere spiritual, and the example always that which becometh the followers of Christ, you will have the consciousness of doing your part towards making this country what God would have it be.'

No part of this excellent programme is to be effected by political agitation, but by earnest effort and zealous discharge of their duties by the Christian ministry. Like pastor, like people. And if the people's home life has degenerated, the blame must primarily fall upon the clergy. Those of the Bible-in-schools movement have lazed and dored and dawdled through the precious years of a generation, and wasted upon sleepy synodal resolutions and sordid political scheming the time and thought that ought to have been devoted to that primary duty of the Christian ministry—the religious instruction of the children of their several faiths. And now they wake up, after eight-and-twenty years, and plead and agitate and bully to get one of their most vital ecclesiastical duties thrown upon the unwilling shoulders of the officers of a State Department!

Notes

Teachers and Bible-in-Schools

One of the lions in the path of the Bible-in-schools scheme is the objection of the State school teachers, as a body, to have to assume the white 'choker' and turn themselves into the parsons of a new State creed. At the Wellington Anglican Synod last week the Rev. C. C. Harper stated—heaven knows for what reason—that, in this matter, the New Zealand Educational Institute did not represent the views of the teachers. Whereupon the Secretary of the Institute informed the Wellington daily papers that 1715 out of 2996 adult teachers of the Colony are financial members of that association, and that there is no rival organisation of the kind in New Zealand. 'The only channel,' added he, 'whereby an expression of opinion of the teachers of the Colony as a whole can be given is through the annual council of the New Zealand Educational Institute. In January of this year this council, consisting of fifty-seven teachers, representing every educational district in New Zealand, debated and agreed to the following resolution from the Hawke's Bay District Institute: "That the introduction of religious instruction into the school syllabus is not desirable."'

'Yellow' Crime

'If there is anybody under the canister of heaven,' said Mrs. Malaprop, 'that hold in utter execrable, it is the slanderer, going about like a vile boaster, circulating his camomile amongst honest folks.' There is less crime in Ireland per thousand of the population than in any English-speaking country on the face of the earth. But the slanderer is abroad—which his color it is yellow. He has been 'circulating his camomile'—to wit, reports of bogus outrages—through the Unionist and Coercionist press in the British Isles. And now the cable demon has taken a hand in the game and sent the stories to the ends of the earth. In the House of Commons on May 25, Mr. John Redmond gave what looks like an inside account of the origin of the crusade of lying in re-

gard to crime in Ireland. The Orange faction 'have for a long time past been calling for the dismissal of Sir Antony MacDonnell from the position of Under-Secretary for Ireland. The London 'Daily Chronicle' said of them in a recent issue: 'Fair-minded Englishmen can only view with disgust the endeavors of the Orange faction to monopolise all offices in Ireland.' But there is another reason. Sir Antony is a Catholic. And to the eyes of our tawny friends in Ulster it is a Macedonian atrocity that he should hold any position under the Crown, and, above all, one of such high influence as that of Under-Secretary for Ireland. 'Hinc illae lachrymae'—hence their raucous and persistent clamour for his dismissal.

Some time ago Sir Antony MacDonnell declared that he would not administer the regime of intolerable tyranny that is associated with Coercion in Ireland. This (according to Mr. Redmond) gave the cue to the Orange leaders who control the policy of Dublin Castle. Almost immediately the Orange and Coercionist press began to publish sensational details of incendiary fires, shootings, barbarous mutilation of cattle, etc. These 'outrages' turned out, on investigation, to be bogus—the invention of designing rascals who had an object in blackening the reputation of the most crimeless people in the British Isles. In Ireland the object of the conspiracy was perfectly well understood. Such methods are the invariable prelude to Coercion. And if Coercion was forced upon the country, Sir Antony MacDonnell, according to his declaration, would have to hand in his resignation. The clumsy attempts to manufacture 'outrages' met, however, with prompt and telling exposure. Then came the next stage of the conspiracy. It ran on two separate lines, each in itself calculated to goad the people into overt acts of violence, as was done during the savage repression of the Coercion regime of the early eighties. One of the Castle methods was described as follows in a recent issue of the London 'Daily News': 'Mr. Long (Chief Secretary for Ireland) is stirring up revolt in Ireland by sending his police into the peasants' houses late at night, precisely in a manner with which the Russian people are so familiar. This provocation,' the 'Daily News' adds, 'is intended to produce disorder, and the disorder will be made a pretext for Coercion.' The other resort of Dublin Castle is to prevent or suppress legal and constitutional public meetings by irritating displays of armed forces, and to bludgeon and ill-use Members of Parliament while addressing peaceful assemblies of their constituents. The attitude of the Royal Irish Constabulary towards Nationalist Members is well illustrated in a recent issue of the London 'Chronicle.' During an eviction scene some years ago a policeman brought down his baton with unpleasant energy on the head of a man who (as it happened) was a reporter on the staff of the Coercionist 'Irish Times.' 'Don't you know,' angrily exclaimed the man with the damaged head, 'that I am a member of the press?' 'I beg your pardon,' said the constable, humbly, 'I thought you were a Member of Parliament.'

Things, however, have not been altogether gay with the Orange Coercionist conspiracy. In the House of Commons a few weeks ago a rather disconcerting flanking movement was executed against Mr. Long and his friends of the 'yellow agony' from Ulster. It was pointed out by Mr. Roche, M.P., that, according to a Return issued during the last week of May, most of the serious crimes committed in Ireland in 1904, took place in Ulster. This was reluctantly admitted by Chief Secretary Long. 'He had humbly to confess,' says the 'Weekly Freeman' of June 3, 'that of the six cases of bigamy reported to the police in Ireland last year, "five were in Ulster"; of the 81 cases of robbery, and assaults with intent to rob, 41 were in Ulster, 34 of which were in Belfast; of the 41 cases of concealment of birth, 17 were in Ulster; of 475 cases of burglary and housebreaking, 188 were in Ulster, 127 of which were in Belfast.' It is under-

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