

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

Dear Madam,—

After much thought and study of the Bible in Schools question, I wish to place before your readers what I have learned on this subject from statements made by Christian men of experience in the education department in America, Australia and other places of interest.

The Bible is the book of books. As a means of imparting moral instruction nothing equal to it can be found in all the other books ages have produced. Bible reading cannot be omitted from the exercise of the school without the greatest loss and the most serious consequences. Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament? Bible selections should be carefully made by some committee, with a view to providing suitable passages of proper length. In some schools in America, the school committee requires the daily reading in the public school of some portion of the Bible without written note or oral comment. About ten verses read at the opening of any public school upon each and every school day, followed by the Lord's Prayer, reverently repeated by the scholars.

A teacher there says:—"I have had several years' experience as principal of public schools from which the Bible has been excluded. I have also held the same position in schools where it was allowed. I believe that the teacher who looks upon development of character as the end of his or her work, feels deprived of their strongest force when the Bible is taken from them. It is a sin against children to deprive them of the greatest moral power of the world at that period of their lives when they need it most."

Experience proves that the average young person has a very imperfect knowledge of the Bible. The Bible is a book conducive to the liberal education of children. It opens up a new world to them. It trains their wills, makes them ever seek that which is good and to turn away from that which is bad. No man or woman can justly claim to be educated who is not familiar with the contents of the Bible. President Faure says:—"I have faith enough in the Bible to believe that the better we understand it the more influential it will become."

Jesus constantly settled questions by referring to old Testament characters, by "It is written," and "Hast thou not heard." A study of morals is needed by making a systematic use of those Ten Commandments which have served as the basis of morals and law for all modern, civilised nations, and of the beautiful summary of those Commandments in the law of love of God, and of our neighbours.

The Bible is adapted to persons of all ages and character and languages, in every possible condition in which they could be placed—Prosperity, health, sickness, and temptation, childhood, youth, mature life and old age, the Church, society and civil government. It is evident that some passages teach duties to country more directly than others, and hence are more appropriate for children in schools maintained by State funds primarily for its benefit. Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and other means of education shall be forever encouraged. There has been no failure to teach knowledge. Merely what we need is more efficient instruction in the fundamental principles of character and conduct which are embraced in the general term of religion and morality. Children must be taught the existence of a personal God; the responsibility of every human being to God, the deathlessness of the human soul as made in the image of God after the power of an endless life; the reality of a future spiritual state beyond the grave, in which every soul shall give account of itself before God, and shall reap that which it has sown. "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." "The Commandments of the Lord are pure, enlightening the eyes, and in keeping of them there is great reward.—I am, etc.,

H. I. COBB,

Supt. Bible-in-Schools Dept.

HOT LAKES OF NEW ZEALAND

Brent's

BATHGATE HOUSE,

ROTORUA.

Being a **FIRST-CLASS TEMPERANCE HOTEL**, is replete with every comfort. It is adjacent to the Sanatorium, and thus affords special facilities for the Baths.

Terms
Moderate.

S. T. BRENT,
Proprietor.

N.Z. W.C.T.U.

List of Literature

NOW IN STOCK.

DEPARTMENTAL LITERATURE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM—

Purity: Mrs Houlder, Wellington
Maori: Mrs Walker, Fox St., Gisborne.
L.T.L. and Cradle Roll: Mrs Neal, Regent Street, Pahiatua
Scientific Temperance: Miss Helyer, Tonks Grove, Wellington
Medical Temperance: Mrs Neal, Regent Street, Pahiatua

BOOKLETS AND LEAFLETS.

Mrs Webb's "W.C.T.U.," 6d per doz.
Membership Pledge Cards, 6d per doz.
N.Z. Constitutions, 3d each
The Fiddlers (by Arthur Mee), 6d each
W.C.T.U. Envelopes, 25 for 6d
Song Leaflet, "All Round the World," 1s 3d per 100
W.C.T.U. Writing Pads, 1s each.

PURITY.

"A Man's Question," 1s 6d per doz.
"The Maiden Tribute to the Modern Mars," 3s per 100.
"Purity Advocate," quarterly, 6d per annum
"Letter for Soldiers," 4d per doz.; 2s 6d per 100
"Confidential Talks to Young Men," and "Young Women," 1s 6d
"Nineteen Beautiful Years," by Frances Willard, 3s 3d
"Stand Up, Ye Dead," 4s 6d
"The Story of Life," 8d and 1s 3d
"Maternity Without Suffering," 3s 9d
"Almost a Man," "Almost a Woman," 1s 3d each
"What a Young Girl Ought to Know," 5s
"What a Young Boy Ought to Know," 5s
...
"White Ribbon Hymn Books," with music, 3s.
"White Ribbon Hymn Books," words only, 1s 6d per doz.
Pledge Books for Non-Members, 6d each.

W.C.T.U. Badges (silver) can be obtained from Mrs Houlder, 1s 3d each, 14s doz. No more enamel badges until after the war.

Will friends please note advancing prices, owing to increased printing charges, and send stamps or postal note with their order? The prices quoted include postage in every case.

MRS HOULDER,

108, WALLACE ST., WELLINGTON.