

Daily Commercial.

HOWARD M. JENKINS, Editor. WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, Monday Afternoon, October 1.

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THE BIBLE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. At the meeting of the Public School Board of Chester, on Friday evening, Dr. Harvey offered the following resolution, which was laid over for further discussion.

Resolved, That the Bible shall not be read in the Public Schools.

From some remarks made by Dr. Harvey, it appeared that he had offered this resolution in connection with Father Havers, a Catholic priest, and it may be inferred that his reason for bringing the proposition before the Board of Education was to remove one of the objections made by Catholics to sending their children to the schools.

In Chicago, the Bible reading has recently been ordered to be discontinued, by a unanimous vote of the Board of Education. The action being taken, so a newspaper of that city states, out of deference to the prejudices of the Roman Catholics, Hebrews, and Unitarians.

It is also stated that the measure is generally approved by the Protestant Christians of that city, who consider it only a just and proper step in the direction of relating religious instruction to the home and church.

In Chester, the Daily News announces its purpose to squarely oppose the proposed change, and says "it does not believe that the efforts to effect a division of the school fund, or a union of religious and secular education in our public schools, will cease to be a source of contention."

The doubt here expressed is, after all, one of the most difficult elements in the problem. If there were complete certainty in the public mind that the opposition to the Public Schools was based on some of the Catholic objections, it would be really on account of reading the Scriptures therein, and that they consider that the schools were sincerely offered by the so-called "Protestant version," undoubtedly very many Protestants would be willing to remove that stumbling-block, also.

It is this, however, that the real objection of the Catholic to the schools—that their opposition, so far as it is manifested at all, springs from the fact that the children are receiving education out of their own hands. If this be true, if the opposition to free public instruction arises from the extreme Ultra-Protestant idea that the church must keep control of its children at all times, and in all places, evidently nothing but Catholic parochial schools will serve for Catholic children, and removing the Bible from the public schools will do nothing in reality toward satisfying the demand for a division of the school revenues on the line of religious belief.

The Dover Statesman, some time last week suggested, it is thought, that the school should have a five appearance. The announcement is made editorially that it has invited a number of prominent gentlemen, (of whose names it gives list), "to contribute" to its columns. The list presents, certainly, a variety of names, being headed by Chancellor Scales, and including all the Judges of the State, the Hon. J. H. Hoge, Chief Justice of the U. S. Court, then there are Bishop Lee and Mr. Richard Harrison, Senator Bayard and James R. Lofland, Bishop Scott and Sam Townsend, and others. No doubt they will all rush into print, especially Sam.

Wendell Phillips, who is in Philadelphia, Philadelphia "Star Course" of Lectures, has a new lecture on "The Indians." He will handle this subject well, and it is a great relief not to have him spreading himself on Kansas.

Some of the Philadelphia papers, stirring the Press, suggest that it is quite time for Colonel Forney to return. But his own prospect is said by comparison—they have no Colonel Forney's return to look for.

An Old Widower Quickly Re-married. "Tommy Jane" thus writes from New York to the Baltimore American:

There is a great comment in society circles upon the forthcoming marriage of Marshall O. Roberts, which is arranged for the 10th of October. Mr. Roberts is a very young and pretty fellow who had not been married for a long time.

The "Mystery of the" in which Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence are playing at the Park Theatre, is nightly increasing in attractiveness. At first it attracted a crowd from curiosity, but the houses now are crowded as in a regular theatre.

From a paper published by an American officer at the front, it is learned that the "Empire" contains a larger population than the Empire of Russia. The total population of the "Empire" is 230,000,000, while that of Great Britain is 230,000,000. The calculation is made in reference to the war population.

The Irish Quakers, who are all of the "Orthodox" persuasion, who number 903 in Ulster, 1,000 in Leitrim, and 704 in Monaghan. During last year there had been seven marriages, and members, "according to the order," and seven contrary to the discipline.

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