

## RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND EXERCISES

to the school as occasion may require. He may not, however, use in school any religious catechism nor interfere with the religious tenets of any pupil.

In the Protestant schools of the province of Quebec the regulations provide that the first half-hour of each day shall be devoted to the opening exercises, Scripture reading, singing and prayer, instruction in Scripture and morals, including readings and lessons upon godliness, truthfulness, honour, respect for others, good manners, temperance, health, kindness to animals, etc. Bible study is devised upon a plan of graded readings, including, for the first year, from the New Testament, events in the life of Our Lord, and from the Old Testament, outlines of chief events to the end of the life of Joseph. Provision is also made for the committal to memory of the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and six named texts of Scripture.

In Ontario the regulations provide that every public school shall be opened with the reading of the Scriptures and the repeating of the Lord's Prayer, and shall be closed with the Lord's Prayer, or the prayer authorized by the Department of Education. The Scriptures are read daily and systematically, and alternative selections are prescribed for adoption by the local board of trustees. This board may also order readings of the Scriptures by both pupils and teachers daily at the closing of the school, and in addition the repeating of the Ten Commandments once a week and the memorization of passages selected by the principal from the Bible. Finally, a clergyman of any denomination has the right to give religious instruction to the pupils of his own denomination at least once a week after the hour of closing the school in the afternoon. A provision of the Ontario school law lays it down as the duty of every teacher "to inculcate by precept and example respect for religion and the principles of Christian morality and the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance, and all other virtues."

In Manitoba the question as to whether there shall be religious exercises in a public school is entirely at the option of the school trustees for each district; but such exercises must be conducted according to the regulations of the Advisory Board, which is a central authority of the province. It is provided that religious teaching shall take place in any public school (a) if authorized by resolution of the majority of the school trustees, and (b) on petition to the trustees of a stated number of parents or guardians of the children attending school. It is further provided that the religious teaching shall take place between half-past three and four in the afternoon, and that it shall be conducted by any Christian clergyman whose charge includes any portion of the school district or by any person or teacher authorized by him. Provision is also made that a Roman Catholic or non-Roman Catholic duly certified teacher shall be appointed on petition to the trustees where the average attendance of Roman Catholic or non-Roman Catholic children reaches a given minimum. Other provisions of the law prescribe the segregation of Roman Catholic and non-Roman Catholic children during the time that religious instruction is being given.