

their purpose for want of a head, than from any other cause. We propose, therefore, to offer a few suggestions, such as may be likely to be of service to those to whom a Sabbath-School Convention may be a new thing.

To begin then, *ab initio* :—

1. As to the calling of a Convention. The Ministers, and Superintendents of Sabbath-Schools, in the County Town, and immediate neighborhood, acting in concert, might very properly take the initiative in such a movement, inviting, by circular or otherwise, all teachers of Sabbath-Schools in the County, to meet them, at a specified time and place, for the purpose of organizing a County Association. The arrangements for the entertainment of the teachers, and other friends attending the meeting, should, of course, be left in the hands of a Committee, which might be appointed at the preliminary conference, at which, also, a docket of business should be prepared for the first day's session.

From these County Associations, delegates should be sent to the Provincial Association, which would thus become a representative Body, composed of all the more prominent, and intelligent labourers in the Sabbath School cause, throughout the land. The deliberations of such a Body would have much more weight, than if they were nothing more than the opinions of a self-constituted gathering of the friends of Sabbath-Schools.

2. A County Association having been formed, the Teachers should do their utmost to sustain it. Every School should, if possible, be represented at its Annual Meeting. The cost and trouble would be trifling, and the advantages to be reaped from it, supposing it were properly conducted, would be immense. Of course the attendance, after the first or second meeting, will be very much in proportion to the interest those meetings have awakened; but, on the other hand, the interest awakened will also be much affected by the attendance. A crowd always attracts, while empty benches repel and chill. Hence, neglect of such a meeting not only deprives the unrepresented School of any benefit that might have been derived from attendance, but it detracts from the general interest of the occasion, and damages the meeting of the following year.

3. The manner in which the Convention, or the Association, is organized, will have much to do with its efficiency. The hour spent in (what is sometimes contemptuously shunned as "routine,") the appointment of officers, &c., often decides the measure of its success. Instead, therefore, of leaving all the preliminaries to a few, the delegates should all be in their places at the hour of assembling, and secure the appointment of the most suitable men upon the several committees. Special care should be taken to obtain a prompt and intelligent chairman, some one well acquainted with the rules in general use, in all deliberative assemblies; and if such a man is not to be found in the neighborhood, it were better even to import one from a distance, if it can be done without arousing jealousy. And further, by all means let us have *christian* men in the chair, on such occasions, men chosen, not for their worldly distinction, but for their personal worth and earnest interest in the work in hand. Great care should also be taken to secure the appointment of a good Business Committee, and, before the final adjournment, of an energetic Executive, to arrange for the next annual meeting.

4. The Executive Committee should provide, *inter alia*, for the following exercises:—(a). The reading and discussing of papers, previously assigned to competent hands, on questions of wide and practical interest. Such a course need not prevent the introduction, through the Business Committee, of other topics; but it is always of advantage to have the well-digested views of a thoughtful and experienced man, as a starting point in such discussions.

Two or three able speakers from a distance also, lend interest to such a meeting. Our American brethren have, on several occasions, at both County and