

and to make their stay with us as pleasant as possible. To-night I desire to add to my official welcome an assurance of my own warmest sympathy for the work in which you are engaged. (Hear, hear, and applause.) To my mind there is no greater nor more important work than that of the Sunday School. The responsibilities of the Sunday School teacher are almost appalling; yet the privileges are correspondingly great, and to me, next to the opportunities for doing good, the greatest of them all is the pleasure that the teacher may derive from enjoying, if he deserves it, the full confidence of those whom he is trying to serve. We know that in worldly pursuits success is almost impossible unless we can inspire confidence in those with whom we have to do. My good friend, Mr. Clark, said that I, as Mayor of this city, would welcome you because it would not be necessary for us to have any extra police to guard the saloons. I have still greater hopes in regard to your influence than that. I hope that after you have left us the influences of your convention will be such that we will have less trouble in the saloons; that the saloons will not have so many customers as they have had in the past. (Hear, hear, and applause.) In the report of one of your conventions, held a few years ago, I noticed a remark by a teacher in the Central Prison, who deplored the fact that so many prisoners had been in the Sunday School, and that the cause of their fall was that they got into the habit of drinking. This reference made me think of the Band of Hope in the old school that I used to attend in Montreal. I have not heard so much of Bands of Hope in Sunday Schools of late years, but I know in the old days they existed in nearly all the Sunday Schools, and one of the most valuable possessions I have is my certificate of membership in a Band of Hope that is dated somewhere in the fifties. (Applause.) I was one of the officers whose duty it was to sign the certificates, but I was not a sufficiently good penman to write my name upon it, and my signature is in my father's handwriting. That certificate pledges against the use of all spirituous and malt liquors and tobacco—(hear, hear, and applause)—and I say, not in a boastful spirit, but in a spirit of great thankfulness, that the pledge taken at that time was never broken. (Applause.) I would like to say that the very best way to settle the prohibition question is to inculcate temperance among the boys and girls of the Sunday School—(hear, hear)—it is far better than any legislative enactment if you can get the boys to set their faces against it. It is rather a strange coincidence that the very last convention which I attended officially to welcome to the city was presided over by an old school-mate of mine in Montreal; I now notice that the Chairman of your Executive Committee is Dr. Maclaren, a gentleman with whom I was associated in Sunday School work for many years in Montreal, and whom I have known so long as an earnest Sunday School worker. Dr. Maclaren at that time was at the head of a Sunday School Association, which did a very important work there, and I think it would

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