

schools, and within four months they had, every one of them, been visited and reported upon. We now have seven associations, and each of them is a "banner association."

I could talk to you all night (Go on, go on), but I do not intend to do so, neither do you wish me; I thank you for the honor you have done me, and, let me say, that I prize it more highly than if the Government of Ontario, and the authorities who administer our Provincial affairs, had conferred upon me the highest honor in their gift; they have to deal with things temporal, we with the salvation of immortal souls. Our schools are more and more taking an important part in the economy of our churches; the scholars are taking note of what is going on; and in a few years the members of our schools will become the men who mould the affairs of our community, and our joy will indeed be great, if they enter upon the discharge of the duties of manhood converted, and we discover that the truths we taught them have left an impression upon their lives.

I see that there is a deputation in waiting, to extend to you words of greeting. I beg to introduce to you His Worship, Mayor Read, who will address us for a few minutes. (Applause.)

Mr. READ—*Mr. President*,—I consider it a high honor to be appointed to address words of kindly welcome to your Association. It has often been my lot as Mayor to welcome to our city various Associations who have come and spent a few, I trust, happy hours with us; but it seldom falls to the lot of any Mayor to extend words of welcome to so important a body as the Sabbath School Association of Ontario.

I was delighted this afternoon when I met with you within these walls, and heard the practical and instructive address delivered by the Minister of Education, the Hon. G. W. Ross; and when I heard that we had already about 360,000 scholars and 42,000 teachers, and their superintendents and secretaries and other officers, making a grand total of over 500,000. If this grand army teaching and learning the Word of the living God, were to be compared with the greatest of earthly hosts, I say I am more proud to belong to it than to any other, no matter how illustrious. The most pleasant hour I spend, is when I sit on Sunday in the Park Baptist Church, instructing my scholars to the best of my ability, in the way of life from God's Holy Word; and it will always be to the hours I have thus spent, that I shall look back with the most pleasant recollections. I sympathize with the teachers assembled here, in their work, for I know a little of what it is; I can realize that you honor your work, and I know the joy you feel when you see this one and that one coming out from the world and accepting the Lord Jesus Christ. I can sympathize with you, too, when you see one after another dropping off, or absent, it may be, through carelessness; and I can realize with you what your feelings are when you stand at the death-bed of one of your scholars, and watch his passage from this world to the brighter world above.

I realize, that this great work is as important as the men as Home and other taking part in this work is

My heart is for Muskoka, and the little children travelling through the heart was also that district Word of the these stir us places, and living God and that I might it the truth and

It is a with a great classes. The and he or she seed in the strongest, and occupies the bath School young people the teacher and mother; finally arrived learned and

Now, we for a special a hearty welcome all of you, w tendents, offi do from the hearty welcome

There is belief that the deal towards of demarcation I am sure the great deal more the thought and bring us