

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25.

The Convention opened at 7.30 p.m. with devotional exercises.

The CHAIRMAN—We have a very full programme for this evening, and it requires no words of mine to make it long enough. It seems to me rather an incongruity that I, in this good City of London, should be called upon to discharge such a duty as devolves upon me just now, a stranger, comparatively speaking, in this city, to have the honor and the pleasure of introducing to an audience in this City of London an old resident, a gentleman who is known, I suppose, to every person in the City of London; but then I comfort myself with this thought, that we are not all Londoners, we do not all live here; and hence, while I am a stranger, a great many of you are just as much so, and we meet here not as inhabitants of the City of London, but as Sunday School workers of the Province of Ontario; and it gives me most unfeigned pleasure to present to this Convention, composed of delegates from the widespread counties of this Province, a gentleman who has been selected as the presiding officer for these meetings. I beg leave to introduce to you Mr. William Bowman, the President-elect of this Convention. (Applause.)

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

Mr. BOWMAN—Our worthy Chairman who has just vacated the chair has ground for taking comfort, I have none. I remember the words of a celebrated divine when he spoke of falling from grace; and I really feel this evening like falling from grace, for when I set out in my Christian career, which is about fifty years ago, I resolved that whatever the Church called on me to do, though I might feel myself ever so unworthy to fill the office, yet by God's help I would obey the call. (Applause.) Many a duty has the Church assigned to me at times when I would have shrunk from it, and felt unable for the task, but God has always helped me to do what the Church has called upon me to perform, though perhaps I have not done it as efficiently as I should have done; yet I have received a large amount of honor and comfort and also support from my brethren; but to-night I feel like rebelling against the axiom laid down for life; and, therefore, feeling my inability to fill this chair with that ability and grace with which it should be filled, I recognize it as one of the highest honors that could be conferred upon a man to be placed in my position to-night. There are places where men can reap honor, but it perishes with the reaping, they have not time to tie their sheaves together before they wither and die; but these honors which you have conferred upon me are honors which cannot wither, and which I trust will go with me to eternity. Looking back, as this is my jubilee year of work in Sabbath Schools with an unbroken record

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