

The Sunday School Banner.

TORONTO, JULY, 1875.

The International Sunday School Convention.

IN view of the very great interest with which the first International Sunday School Convention at Baltimore is invested, we think we cannot do better than reproduce our personal impressions, written upon the spot, of that memorable gathering:—

The Convention opened on Tuesday morning, May 11th, in the large Masonic Hall, one of the most commodious audience rooms in the city. The floor was studded with poles bearing shields, inscribed with the names of the several States and Territories of the Union, and those of Canada and England; and beneath their respective banners gathered the representatives of the great Sunday School army, from Nova Scotia to Texas, from Maine to Nebraska. Alaska and California did not respond to the roll call, although their places were reserved. It was an inspiring sight. There were the white-haired veteran teacher of over half a century's toil, and the smooth-cheeked boy in the glow of his young enthusiasm, the fervid Georgian, the alert New Englander, the Kansas pioneers—from counting-house and prairie, from village and farm, gathered from a broad continent to promote one common work. The platform was draped with festoons of evergreen. On either side hung the red cross flag of England and the starry banner of the Republic, and between, linking them both in the bonds of a common faith, a large cross of evergreen starred with white camellias. Above was the word "welcome," with the appropriate reference to Phil. i. 2, and 1 Cor. iii. 9. Canada

was awarded a position of honour in the front rank, and was represented by about twenty delegates, among whom was Revs. Dr. McVicar, of Montreal; Septimus Jones, Wm. Millard, J. Cameron, W. S. Blackstock, A. Andrews, J. Shepherd, W. H. Withrow, Mr. McLean, and others from Ontario, as well as by ministers and laymen from Quebec and Nova Scotia. Dr. Douglas is also expected. Over four hundred delegates were present, and probably nearly as many more visitors, many of whom were ladies. The address of welcome was given by Dr. Grammer, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and was very cordial, especially in its reference to their Canadian brethren, which cordial references were emphasized by the hearty applause of the American delegates. Rev. W. S. Blackstock responded eloquently on behalf of Canada.

The South is more largely represented than at any previous Convention. The reciprocal influence of this exchange of loving Christian sympathy cannot fail to be largely salutary to both North and South. It seems hardly credible that where only a few years ago Northern blood was shed by Southern hands, such perfect cordiality should exist, as was manifested by the characteristic Southern hospitality with which Baltimore opened its homes and hearts for the reception of the Northern delegates.

In the lower part of the building is a Sunday School Bazaar, in which the different publishers exhibit an ample assortment of Sunday School material, maps, pictures, illuminated cards, Sunday School Furniture, and everything conceivable for the most efficient carrying on of Sunday School work. Nelson & Phillips, of the New York Methodist Book concern, have unquestionably the largest and finest collection. They also present each delegate with a blank book for taking notes, and