

(Contributions continued from page 437.)

THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION AT ATLANTA.

MR. EDITOR,—Having promised to send you some jottings of this important international gathering, we hasten to do so. Atlanta, Georgia, is about 1,400 miles from your city, almost due south. The difference in climate and society is of a striking and startling character. It is like a translation. The two weeks spent in the journey and work is like a dream never to be forgotten.

Leaving Buffalo at 8 a.m., we passed through the Lehigh Valley in daylight. This is the Switzerland of America. The run along the shore of the delightful Susquehanna, hemmed in on the left by those towering mountains, whose bosoms are rich with coal and iron. The winding about, and gradual ascent of twenty-five miles, to travel—in reality only five in the journey—creates great interest, and suggests many thoughts of life's race.

Fifteen hours brings us to the delightful city of brotherly love, now so well known by the Centennial—PHILADELPHIA. Thence we proceed to Washington by Baltimore. Baltimore is an important commercial point, with its double tracked and tunelled railway on one side, and its through car drawn across the city, by fifteen miles, on the other.

Off again, and in a short time we are in the capital of the American nation—Washington, on the left side of the Potomac river. This is the city of magnificent distances. Towering over every other object of interest is the Capitol, covering three and-a-half acres of land, then the White House, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Patent Room, on all of which one might spend a month. One-third the distance to Atlanta is all that is traversed. Off again, and we are now in the direct line of travel for the "Sunny South," every ten miles of which is historic by the war—Richmond, so important to the Confederates as their capital; important in a commercial point of view by the James River and its canal; Fredricksburg and Danville, and the dismal swamp, all immortalized by the sad memories of slavery, and Mrs. Stowe's picturesque pen.

What appeared of Virginia along the line of travel was intensified desolation, a barren land, desolate homes and degraded huts, and downtrodden peoples of all shades of color. North Carolina shows improvement in every respect, and here we begin to get into the cotton region.

South Carolina is better still, with more marks of healthy civilization and enterprise. The well-filled train with delegates was greeted at Spartansburg by the children of the town, loaded with flowers and blossoms of every shade of beauty and fragrance that is a grateful surprise to a northern nose, special bouquets labelled for well-known men as the Editor of the "Sunday School Times," the "Sprightly," Drumbull, and also the humorous Sherwin. This was some hundreds of miles from Atlanta, showing how the lively hope had taken hold of the Southern people.

Now we are in Georgia, where luxuriance and enterprise, and higher aims in the people begin to appear. At three o'clock in the morning we are in Atlanta, "The Gate City of the South," with 35,000 of a population—one-third colored. This is a great railroad centre, hence its title "Gate City." Largely rebuilt since the war, it is a well organized city, and in good condition—street railways and all other facilities. Its exports are cotton, tobacco, rice, wheat, and sweet potatoes.

The enthusiastic hospitality of the people leads you to forget all their peculiarities of manners, speech and character. The thermometer on April 21st, stood at 92, but the atmosphere is not dry and scorching as often found with us at that height.

Atlanta is built on a lofty ridge forming the watershed on one side to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the other to the Atlantic; the evaporation between these two waters does much to modify the climate of Georgia.

Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., in the first Baptist Church. We enter at this early hour and find 1,200 of the choice of the land have assembled to open the Third International Sabbath School Convention. The fragrance of the atmosphere and the glory of floral decorations was to Northern eyes, like the fairy lands read of in childhood. From the gallery to the centre and focus of beauty, THE PLATFORM, delicately adorned with festoons, hanging baskets, and growing ivies; the

invisible wire stand, eight feet high, seemingly in mid-air, crowned with southern floral glory; all parts of the South vied with each other in supplying the choicest flowers for the occasion. Of the mottoes so appropriate and suggestive, some were sent by Canada, and made by the faithful secretary, Rev. Wm. Millard. But within and surrounded by all this were men good and true—the Mayor of Atlanta, the Governor of the State of Georgia, Plumer so venerable and striking in appearance; Searles, the Chairman of the Executive, and Peltze, the retiring President; with the masterly Prof. Fischer at the organ; the choice of the land in intellect, culture, heart, and hope, at their feet. North and South, East and West, are forgotten in the Sunday School International Convention of 1878.

The organization of the representatives was perfect. Each State and Province had its appointed place alphabetically arranged, with a small banneret above the heads of the delegates bearing the name of the State on each side; so that the arrangement was in full view of the President, and also of those coming in from the entrance. The address of welcome is given to the Mayor of the city, supported by Governor Colquit of the State—hearty in spirit, expressed in terms, choice, and in harmony with the contemplated objects of the gathering. The response followed, led by Canada, in a style at once elevated, comprehensive, and patriotic, and above all grandly evangelical. This duty was discharged by the Rev. John Potts, of your city, who did himself and Canada credit. It awoke unbounded enthusiasm. This was followed by a very able address by General Fiske of New York.

In half an hour the entire organization is completed and Governor Colquit is introduced as the newly-elected President, whose spirit, ability, and conduct in the chair are above all praise.

The first work attended to was the reports of all States and Provinces, in five-minute statements, each responding to the call by one of the secretaries.

One important and helpful feature in this department of the work was the large map before the audience with the several States clearly defined, and the reported schools marked by a golden star, which gave a distinct idea as to the extent of the organization and the work being done. Much credit is due to the Rev. E. Payson Porter, of Chicago, statistical secretary, for this help in this very important part of the work. It would be well for our County Conventions to take note of this, and see at a glance to what extent their work is being carried on.

The evening session brought the Convention to the central subject of interest—the final report of the committee on the International Sabbath School Lessons.

This report was read by Rev. Warren Randolph, secretary, and was a model of simplicity; solemn by the issues it detailed and the results it recorded of revived Bible study. This was followed by addresses from Drs. John Hall and J. H. Vincent. Both of these addresses were unique. The emotion created by Holt's appeal for unity was much intensified by being given before the assembled delegates of North and South, and in a Southern city—"One in nationality, in religion, in their love to Christ, with one English Bible, one Protestant faith, one common affection for the little children." It was a moment not soon to be forgotten. Vincent's address made these important points emphatic: the testimony of publishing houses that more Bibles and a better class of Bibles had been sold since the adoption of the International Lessons, than ever before in the same time; the power of the secular press enlisted into giving a placeto notes on the lesson; also that there was a great increase of intellectual power in the Church. As a supplemental to the first speech, Vincent made us feel that in this line of work we had God with us.

This first day's work closed, with hope of and already realizing a rich blessing. This letter is already too long. We shall finish this review of an important meeting next week. JOHN McEWEN.

Ingersoll, April 30th, 1878.

MODERATORSHIP.

MR. EDITOR,—Your correspondent "Courtesy" asks, "What is the meaning of this sentence in Presbyter's letter,—'The three large bodies which united to constitute the Presbyterian Church in Canada, have each been honoured by having a Moderator chosen from its ranks; henceforth let all sectional distinctions disappear?' Will you allow me a word of explana-

tion? The bodies referred to were the Church in connection with the Established Church of Scotland in what is now the Dominion of Canada, the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. From each of these a Moderator has already been chosen. Why should that portion of the United Church which was in connection with the Church of Scotland have two Moderators on the ground of courtesy? Because a part of it is in the Maritime Provinces? By far the largest part of what was the Church of the Lower Provinces, was composed of the late Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, which looked to the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland as its mother Church. A large part of the late Presbyterian Church of Canada claimed the same ecclesiastical origin. These two bodies taken together form a large and influential portion of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, but from which no Moderator has yet been chosen. If courtesy is to be considered, it has the highest claim. This statement is made not for the purpose of keeping up sectional differences, but for the very opposite. There is reason to fear that your correspondent "Courtesy" is not influenced by the fairness that characterized the *heathen Khan of Tartary*, who when he had himself dined was willing to let others dine. There is reason to believe that he belongs to that part of the United Church that has already enjoyed all the privilege that courtesy can fairly crave. If the most suitable man for the office can be found in what was formerly the Church of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland let him be elected, but not on the ground of courtesy.

Maritime Provinces.

PRESBYTER.

PRESBYTERY OF SAUGEEN.—PROTEST AND APPEAL CASE.

MR. EDITOR,—I notice that in your last issue, the Rev. Mr. Park represents the case about which there is a protest and appeal by Mr. McMillan and others, as, "one altogether about property—a 'division of inheritance' between brethren," etc. I am sorry Mr. Park has taken the liberty of giving any new shape or setting to the case. There was no occasion for doing so. This very matter is reported by Mr. Park, in your columns of 29th March, page 348; and in the language of the motion and amendment by which it was before the Court. Surely that ought to suffice till it came before the Synod. But Mr. Park has not stopped there. He goes further. In his first report he states in the language of his own resolution, that the case or question is one of "Civil Right." In his second report he departs from this and says, "It is one altogether about property—a 'division of inheritance' between brethren," etc. He also puts the words, "division of inheritance" under quotation as if they belonged to the case. Why all this whittling? It is not so. The case is not "one altogether about property—a 'division of inheritance' between brethren," but one involving CONSISTENCY OF CONDUCT, etc., though I am not going to follow Mr. Park's example—tempting as that may be—to say anything that is liable to be construed as prejudicial to the subject. I have every confidence in the capacity of the Synod to understand it, and deal with it on its own merits when it is brought before it. And as there has been a difference of opinion, in which the Presbytery is about equally divided, it is evidently the part of wisdom, as it is of duty, to lay all the papers connected with the case before the Synod, and let it be judge. I have no objection that Mr. Park, when the proper time comes, should try and make out his point. But meanwhile, all that I ask of him is—and no doubt he will do it—to forward all the papers in the case to the Synod. Yours, etc.

MEMBER OF SAUGEEN PRESBYTERY.

IN MEMORIAM.

Mr. William Durie, the second son of one of the oldest and most esteemed citizens, John Durie, Esq., has been called by death from earth to heaven.

He was one of our most promising young men, and had before him a bright earthly career, for he possessed the elements requisite to success; a strong vigorous body, a clear, well-balanced mind, and a true, earnest view of life.

Although quite young, his excellent business capacity, and strict integrity of character had gained for him a position of trust and responsibility, connected with the Merchants' Bank of Montreal; and it was while furthering its interests in Bay City, Michigan,