CONFERENCE & CONVENTIONS

London Conference Convention.

The Third Convention of the London Conference Epworth League was held in the "Classic City" of Stratford, February 13th and 14th, and was attended by about 140 delegates. The programme was an excellent one, and with an exception or two carried out as printed.

The morning session of the first day was given up to the

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

Miss Olive Norton, of Orwell, read a paper on "The Ideal Junior Superintendent." Its points were: 1st—Consecration to God's service is the first essential of The Ideal Junior Superintendent; 2nd—she must be filled with the Spirit and show forth its fruits; 3rd—she will have the spirit of love in her work and will believe in the conversion and training of the children. She will know that she is specially called for this work. The literature of the Ideal Superintendent is important. She will be a great student of the Bible herself, and will see that the boys and girls read good books. She should study well the Junior Epworth League hand-book, by Rev. S. T. Bartlett. She will adhere to the rules of the Methodist Church. She will make a careful selection of the songs the children sing. There is a great power in song.

"Intermediate Leagues" was the topic introduced by Rev. G. H. Cobbledick, B.D., of Bothwell. It was pointed out that the Juniors from 8 to 15 do not care to be with those too small. He showed there were thirteen million boys in the United States, but only one million in the Church. This was largely due to the fact that so many dropped out between the Sunday School and the Church. There was no constitution for an Intermediate League, and the speaker thought it was unnecessary to have one, but would leave it to the discretion of the official board of each church. In some churches such a league was not required, but in others it was very requisite, in order to retain the youth in the Church.

"The Ideal League Meeting" was the subject assigned to Mr. E. S. Hunt, Scottsville. He turned the Convention into a League meeting, and after singing and prayer called on Rev. G. W. Henderson to read the lesson, and Rev. John Morrison to give an address on Consecration.

The leader, instead of staying on the platform, got down near his audience. The singing of practical hymns, the uttering of sentence prayers followed in quick succession, so that there were no "long pauses"—that drawback so deadly to many league meetings.

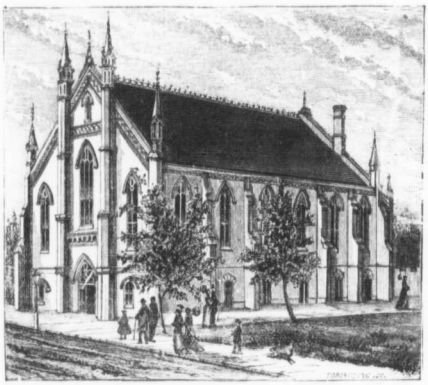
THE READING COURSE.

Rev. G. W. Henderson, of St. Marys, gave an address on the Epworth League Reading Course. From the time of the invention of printing, books and not kings, ruled. Of all the factors in the elevation of the people, none are more potent than than good literature. So many books of a poisonous nature were extant, parents should be as careful to select good books for their children as they are to select good companions for them. He commended strongly the books of the E. L. reading course. They had been carefully selected, which was more than could be said of many books that found their way into the homes and Sabbath Schools.

In the discussion that followed considerable interest was awakened. It was the consensus of opinion that the best way to organize good reading circles was by persistent advocacy and earnest endeavor.

PREPARATION FOR EVANGELISTIC WORK.

"Bible Study in Preparation for Evangelistic Work" was the theme of a paper by Rev. A. G. Harris, of London. It had been aptly taught that Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone. The electric current alone could flash our thought across the ocean but that current cannot do it without the wire. Christ used men to save the world. He broke the bread to the twelve and through them to the multitude. The Apostles used the Bible everywhere in their evangelism. John Wesley, D. L. Moody, and all other great evangelists were mighty in the Scriptures. The Bible was the one Book to be studied above all others to properly prepare for this special work.



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH, STRATFORD.

DOCTRINAL TEACHING.

"The Bible in relation to Doctrinal Teaching," was discussed by Rev. Jasper Wilson. He said: "The creeds and symbols of the Christian Church do not represent arbitrary theories, but they are human expositions of revealed truth. There is not likely to be any great change in the creeds of the Church. Doctrinal teaching is essential to the development of the Christian, and the Bible is its true basis. Around every Christian there should be the safeguards of Christian doctrine. 'Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.'

"The Bible is the standard of appeal in all doctrinal teaching. Such teaching develops faith in the disciple. Bible truth leads the student into the very presence chamber of God."

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

Rev. Dr. Saunders gave a fine address at the evening session of the first day on "The Message of the Nineteenth Century to the Twentieth." He thought that the twentieth century promises to be the most important in the history of the world. There is no knowing what this century holds, but men may hope that wars will cease in it and the real reign of the Prince of Peace begin.

The twentieth century should see the complete overthrow of slavery. Mr. Gladstone once said that the key-note of the nineteenth century was "emancipation." There will be the overthrow of political corruption in the coming century, the destruction of monopolies and combines, and the ceasing of the great struggle between capital and labor. The time will come when the great cry of men will be not "get" but "give"; the time when men will not demand their rights, but ask to be shown their duties. The great want of the approaching century is the want of men—large-hearted, manly men; men who will lead off the hosts of God to greater victories than the world has ever seen. God has made his people to be kings. This is not a matter of pedigree, but a matter of true essential manhood. The world wants kings that will wield the sceptre of power for the good of men and glory of God. The twentieth century wants kings of this kind. This century will be the mausoleum or the coronation chamber of everyone present.

Rev. A. C. Crews was the last speaker. He dwelt particularly on the importance of cultivating every part of our natures, and working all the departments of League work, thus securing symmetrical Christian character.

DEEPENING OF SPIRITUAL LIFE.

This was the general topic for the forenoon session of the second day. Mrs. Harrison, of Granton, read a paper on "The Leaguer in relation to his own spiritual life."

The second phase of the subject was brought before the session by Miss Curtis, of Mount Brydges, in a paper on "The Leaguer in Relation to the Social Means of Grace." The League should be a manufacturer of power. God wanted to employ all, but each one must be consecrated. Every Leaguer should attend all the means of grace, and co-operate in each service with the leader. Members should invite others, and even make personal calls if necessary. There should be no members present as spectators, but each should determine to do his duty. As the soldier of our country is loyal to our Queen and Empire, so every Leaguer should be loyal to Christ and the Church.

Rev. C. T. Scott, of Aylmer, took up the third feature of the question, "The Leaguer in Relation to the Sacraments." He said in part: "The sacraments preserve in symbolic form the essential truths of the gospel. Baptism teaches in this way man's need of regeneration. The sacrament reminds us that man's sin can only be forgiven through the atonement. The sacraments were also a means of confessing Christ. Baptism is a witness to the efficacy of the work wrought by Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is a testimony to the ever present virtue of the atoning blood.

"The Leaguer's relation to the League" was handled by Rev. Joseph Philp, B. D. He said that the responsibilities of the League rest upon its members. They should be loyal to the League, to the members, to its objects and aims. There is the relation of endeavor—the relation of activity. The Leaguer should be zealous in every good work. The activity of all is necessary to the success of the League. The League is a pure democracy, the officers are selected from amongst equals. Every Leaguer should be a thinker. Ganglia—a nerve centre—is what a Leaguer should be. Concentration of these "ganglia" will give a great human brain.

Let the letters of the word Leaguer stand for symbolizing the relation of the Leaguer to the League, these words: L for "loyalty;"