

*TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 27th.*

After a devotional service, led by Rev. T. S. Johnston,

The PRESIDENT took the chair and introduced Rev. W. J. CLARK, who said: I suppose it is intended that I should be a sort of composite representation of all the pleasant smiles and hearty handshakes and kind words of welcome that are extended to you from the citizens of London. I can quite understand that His Worship the Mayor should greet you, because, although a large number of people have come to the city there is no necessity for increasing the police force or asking that special watch be kept over the saloons. I represent the churches, and they are one with you in seeking the good of the growing generation. Every thoughtful man feels that if the never-ending battle is to be fought successfully by those who are on the side of Christ, and righteousness, and purity, and truth, and such righteousness is to come to us in the way that all God's good things come—from gradual growth, just as the good things that you have been gathering from your fields and orchards, spring not to life in one instant under the glowing rays of the great sun-mother, but during the months of spring and summer and on into the fruitful fall, gradually ripen by the long fingers of that sun's activity. So in the hearts and lives of men there must be the seed planted when the soil is ready to receive it, in childish days, and ripened by the clouds of adversity, by the sunshine of prosperity, until at last there stands a goodly tree planted as in the garden of the Lord, bringing forth fruit to His honor and glory and to the welfare and blessing of humanity. That is our faith, and because it is so we welcome you as workers in the Sabbath School. And we beseech you in all your efforts for the improvement of methods of administration never to forget the fundamental truth; that, however wise your methods and however up-to-date your service in its order and style, the one thing that is to make Sabbath-School work successful is this: that each teacher shall be persuaded that in the individual pupils there is the possibility of a great, strong, heroic manhood, of a kindly, loving, gracious womanhood, and a soil into which, under God's good providence, it is ours to drop the seed, and to water it, and to care for it, until the results shall come as I have pictured. Now, that is our field, and that is why we say to you, with friendly faces and warm hearts and hearty hand-clasps, "Welcome to our fair city; spend your time well in the church here and in the homes that you shall visit, and when you go away leave behind you such a sweet savor that people shall say, 'We hope that the next Provincial Sabbath School Convention that is to meet in the city of London will soon be here.'" I think you are leaving such a savor behind you. (Applause.)

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR LITTLE, in welcoming the Convention, said: We are always glad to tender a cordial greeting to these gatherings,