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Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, MARCH, 1903.

Methodist S.S. Workers.

AT the recent convention of Toronto Sunday School workers, held in the Metropolitan Church, the chairman was Mr. Justice Maclaren. The first address was given by Rev. Dr. F. C. Stephenson on missions. His address was along the lines that a forward movement for missions should be inaugurated in the Sunday Schools. The children should be educated in mission work to increase their interest. If this is brought about mission work will prosper as it never has before. The North-West as a fruitful field for the missionary was touched upon.

Miss E. A. Readman and Mr. G. M. Lee read valuable papers on primary and normal work respectively. At the close of the afternoon programme tea was served upstairs, some hundreds of persons remaining.

In the evening the Rev. Dr. Chown gave an address on "Temperance work in the Sunday School." He said Christianity is a social religion. One could not be a Christian standing out alone. Part of religion is to help one another. Speaking of instilling into the minds of the children the principle of Christian giving, Dr. Chown said, the natures of the children should be transformed, then they will want to give to the missions, etc. In this connection he told a story of a boy who was asked who the Pharisees were. "Oh, they were a mean, low, stingy lot," said the boy. "One of them took a penny up to Christ, and Christ took it and looked at it and then said, 'Whose subscription is this?'"

On the question of prohibition Dr. Chown said that prohibition would never come except through the church. The recent great victory—it certainly was victory—he thought was due to the work of the people inside the church. The children of the Sunday Schools should be urged to sign the pledge. Rev. Dr. Crews, the General Secretary of Sunday Schools, made an address, in which he said the Sunday Schools should have the best of teachers, and that the Sunday School equipment should be improved. Skilled workers in the Sunday School are absolutely necessary. Slovenly work will not do for the Lord. Too many Sunday School teachers are just a little careless in the matter of preparation. Many teachers say they are so tired with the heavy commercial work of Saturday, which actually crowds into Sunday, that they are not prepared to teach their classes in the Sunday School. Sunday School teachers should be thoroughly acquainted with the Bible. They should know thoroughly what it was intended to teach. However, the most important equipment of the teacher is the heart. Spiritual equipment, the speaker placed above the equipment of the mind. A teacher must have a personal acquaintance with Jesus Christ or how can he lead others to Him? Dr. Crews urged Christians to show their Christianity in their faces. He had given an address at a meeting once, the Chairman of which looked as if he had done nothing all his life but attend funerals. Such people do not make successful Sunday School teachers. Perseverance and patience are necessary qualities for good teachers.

This convention was in every way a very marked success. We hope that in many of the towns and cities of Canada

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