

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mr. Meikle said it was no ordinary business that called them together; they were not there to see and be seen; but to consult upon matters of the highest moment and upon the result of their deliberations very grave interests depended. Interests of eternal importance to the hundreds of immortal souls who assembled Sabbath after Sabbath to receive instruction at their hands. He welcomed them, therefore, in the name of the common Master and Saviour, to the homes, to the churches and to the hearts and affections of the brethren in Oakville! In the olden time when Appelles, one of the most celebrated of the Grecian painters, was reproached for the slowness with which he performed his work, he replied he was not painting for that generation, he was working for all time. Phidias, the greatest of the ancient sculptors, on one occasion, when a by-stander who witnessed the patience and care with which every stroke of the artist's chisel was made, chid him for his extreme slowness, the artist replied that he could afford to expend time, as he was working for eternal ages. All honor to these noble heathens for their words; but those engaged in Sabbath Schools had a far higher calling. They were not engaged in chiseling out the semblance of the "human form divine" in inanimate marble, but were employed in moulding human character and preparing the young to live useful, godly lives, and enjoy an eternity of happiness in heaven. In pursuing his work, the Sabbath School teacher had many difficulties to overcome. The child's surroundings at home may be vicious, his parents may be infidels, or perhaps dissipated, and thus the good influences of the Sabbath School may be neutralized. Under circumstances such as these, all the care and energy of the teacher would be required to ensure success. The time during which the scholar was under his influence was very short—only a hour and a half a week—a teacher should not, therefore, be satisfied with meeting his pupil then; he should see them other days, and seek to impress upon them the importance of the lessons of the Sabbath. He should bear in mind that he is responsible to the church, which expects that he will faithfully perform the duty before him. She looks to him for her ministers, and her faithful, self-sacrificing missionaries, and expects him to be dilligent in sowing the good seed. He will also have to give an account to God of the manner in which he has performed the duties of his position. Babbington says that the breath emitted on