

3rd chapter of Proverbs, and offered prayer, invoking the blessing of God upon the meeting, the Convention, and the Christian Association of St. John, and in other places. Then came the

HYMN:

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

We share our mutual woes;
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

The President then, on rising, said: "Christian friends, we have met here to-night to extend to the Delegates here assembled, a hearty and a Christian welcome, and it affords me great pleasure to introduce to you the Rev. Mr. Lathern, who will tender you an

ADDRESS OF WELCOME,

on behalf of the Pastors and Churches of the City."

Mr. LATHERN said—He rose on behalf of the Pastors of this City, to speak words of welcome. Not in mere form, but with earnest, loving words, he would bid those here assembled, welcome, thrice welcome—welcome for their sakes—welcome for the Master's sake, and welcome for the great objects they sought to promote.

Conventions, he said, are becoming a marked feature of the times. Churches have Conventions; learned Societies have Conventions for discussing scientific and social questions; the Pope has summoned a Convention to meet at Rome to discuss issues vital to the Roman Catholic Church; and though this Convention of Christian young men may have less of pretention, less of prestige, it has, nevertheless, to deal with important interests, and it involves great results. Some kinds of work could best be done personally in our own sphere of life; there are kinds of work which can best be done by Churches singly; but there are other enterprises of Christian effort which can be best accomplished by representatives of all the Churches; and, therefore, you are summoned for united counsel, and, if possible, for organized aggressive effort. You need much heavenly wisdom; and, he trusted, to each might be given, not the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind.

He welcomed them as *Christian brethren*—brethren in Christ; not all of the same name, but all committed to a common cause. And if we, as Gospel heralds, meet you in the way, as we do meet you now, we do not ask for the same regimental colours, the same denominational badge, but we ask, Are your hearts as ours in sympathy with the soul-saving purposes of the Redeemer? Then give up your hands, and in this opening service, let us, with clasped hands and hearts pulsating as one, with the consciousness of high and hallowed obligation, consecrate ourselves anew to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He welcomed them as *fellow-warriors of the Cross*. Their places in the ranks awaited them, and summoned them to the conflict. Referring to the summoning of the Scottish clans, by the "Cross of Thane," the Rev. speaker went on to say, not with the same symbol or ceremony had they been gathered. Their