

the members of other conferences, and earnestly desire that this fraternal interchange may be reciprocated.

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of the Conference be tendered for the generous and sumptuous entertainment given us by the people of Napanee during the session.

Ordered, that there be 1,000 copies of Minutes—sent by mail to the preachers—unless otherwise ordered.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report—

That the relations of the Sabbath School to the growth and efficiency of the Church is too obvious to require argument. Still, it is evident that the responsibility in behalf of the young is not justly estimated or properly felt in the Church at large. The soul-stirring motives which prompt to this work are not thoroughly embraced, nor the facilities which exist for its prosecution properly appreciated, nor has the Church properly weighed the terrible alternative which must be accepted if the Christian instruction of the young is neglected. The child is not far from the Kingdom of God. He is born into the all-embracing atmosphere of Divine love, and receives the Holy Ghost ere he is capable of faith. He is, by virtue of the atonement, a member of the Church, and entitled to its fostering care. But in the midst of this paradise of childhood stands the tree of "knowledge of good and evil," of the fruit of which he will partake; temptation must be encountered, and the native depravity of the heart is quickly stimulated into a growth of sinful habits. The only safeguards of this critical period of our being are affectionate Christian instruction, example and authority. The social element pervading the Sabbath School renders it an indispensable ally of parental nurture, and adapts it to the multitudes who are destitute of parental instruction. To this work we ought then, as pastors, to direct our earnest efforts. Nothing that money, labor or prayers can contribute to make the Sabbath School a living and efficient institution should be withheld. The early conversion of children should be a primary aim in our ministry; and a nucleus of juvenile Christians should be secured in every part of our work, and maintained with prayerful solicitude. No pastor is excusable in neglecting his Sabbath School, nor can he innocently relinquish to others all supervision of it. He is the pastor of the Sabbath School as well as of the Church, and owes to all its members, both adults and juveniles, the full exercise of his pastoral relations. We are deficient as a denomination in Sabbath School enterprise. The system of the Church is at present, as in the past, adapted and