

and sister, and one and all will assemble on the Sunday afternoon for the study of God's word. I trust our coming together in this Convention will be the means of leading us in the direction of realizing, more and more, that it is not the simple matter of bringing boys and girls into the Sunday-school, but of securing the attendance of the whole community. With regard to the work in the country, I think it is attracting more interest than ever before. I know the Sunday-schools in the country are progressing. This is simply what I have been asked to report. I trust this Convention will be a lively one. I am very anxious that we should have here as little formality as possible, and that every person should feel at home. I realize in no ordinary degree as I look into the faces of those around me, that they are all co-workers with me—that Sunday after Sunday we study and review the same lessons and receive and impart the same truths, and that therefore we are one in the work of leading the youth of our land to the Lord Jesus Christ. I therefore feel that we ought to have in this Convention as little formality as possible, and that all should realize the blending and unifying influences of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Mr. McEWEN—I hold in my hand a statement from the Secretary of the County of Victoria setting forth that a Convention has been advertised to be held up there in the town of Lindsay, for the town and the surrounding country, but also announcing that no Convention for the past year, at all events, has been held in that county. He also sets forth the reason, which is one given by a great many counties, viz., that this Association has done its work so thoroughly in the past that the Churches have seen it necessary to organize their own denominational Associations or Conventions. That is to say, the work that was begun outside by this Association in 1856, has been pushed up so thoroughly to the gate, that it is now thought necessary to incorporate it as part and parcel of the essential life of the Church. I think it is not a small record for an Association like this to be able to take that as one of its results. Hence, on that ground there has been a difficulty felt in carrying on the union organization alongside of the denominational organizations. This brother from Victoria indicates that he called his Committee together on two different occasions last winter, but failed to secure action in that direction, but he hopes that in the winter to come they will be able to do something. Now, sir, I take it just in this way: that as this Association has brought the Churches as Churches to see and feel the value of Conventions, and to adopt them in their method of operation, this Association has got to take a step forward and upward, and drop the word "Convention," if you will, and take the word "Institute;" and that having outlived and outgrown the age of sentiment we will now settle down, with acquired strength and muscle to educational effort. The difference between the Convention and the Institute, to my mind, lies in this: less talk for inspiration and more educational work; getting face to face with our difficulties, and, as our