

the arid desert and wander alone, unrefreshed and sad, through the scorched plains of sin, dropping a seed here and there, which the heavenly wind bears to the fountain side, and forthwith blossoms the rose to make the desert rejoice.

We have often been told that our Canadian women are slow, and that we have yet to be educated to these women's meetings; but we feel it due to our Montreal sisters to affirm, that they are in no way a slow people. If they are to be taken as a representative class, we would say that Canadian women are capable of being fired with enthusiasm in a good cause. The perfect and complete arrangements for the Convention, and the thorough business-like manner in which the meetings were conducted, would go to prove that they are in no way behind the age.

Before speaking of the meetings we feel impelled to express our gratitude for the generous manner in which we were entertained during our stay. Nothing was omitted which courtesy or kindness could suggest to make our visit highly agreeable and interesting. The dear Christian friends, whose unbounded hospitality the writer shared, succeeded in making her as much at home and as happy in their society as if their acquaintance had been that of a life time, instead of a few days.

The first meeting of the Conference was held on Tuesday, June 5th, in Emmanuel Church, when the following officers were elected:—President, Miss Fitch of Cleveland; Vice-President, Mrs. Johnson, of Memphis; Secretary, Mrs. Wilson, of Washington; Assistant-Sec. Mrs. Lindsay, of Montreal.

Mrs. McDougall, President of the Montreal Association, then delivered an address, welcoming the delegates most cordially. A programme for the meetings was then arranged. The following places were reported by delegates, at the successive meetings:—New York City, Rhode Island, Cleveland, Portland, Louisville, Philadelphia, Washington, Memphis, Toledo, O., Tennessee, St. Louis, Burlington, Cincinnati, Quebec, Lynn, Massachusetts, Chicago, Harrisburg, Kansas City, Utica, Boston, Knoxville, Tenn., Brockville, Ottawa, London, Toronto.

Space will not allow to give details of these reports. Many of the Associations reported a large number of departments of Christian labour, some of these incurring an annual expenditure of \$10,000 to carry on the Association's work. The following departments were mentioned in the reports:—Boarding houses for young women; public reading-rooms for young women; an employment bureau; cottage Bible readings; aged Protestant's home; Sheltering Arms; Gilmour Industrial School; depository for sale of fancy work made by ladies in reduced circumstances;

home for fallen women; home for Christian women; soup kitchen, and several minor departments. Several excellent papers were read, which were listened to with intense interest. Some of them opening the way for the discussion of subjects which are of vital importance to the members of every Association. Mrs. McCollin, of Philadelphia, read a paper on the "Employment of Women," treating the subject very ably, adverting to the perplexities and difficulties which beset us from improper training, &c. Miss Drinkwater, of Boston, read an excellent paper on Boarding Houses; and Mrs. Leslie, of Cleveland, on the "Rescue of Fallen Women," giving many excellent suggestions on this difficult subject. Mrs. Birt, of Liverpool, spoke on the question of rescue work among the waifs of England. Many were moved to tears, and long past the hour for closing the audience listened with deep interest. Mrs. Cronyn addressed the Convention on the subject of Parlour Bible Readings for the upper classes.

We had the privilege of attending two Bible readings during the Convention, conducted by Mrs. Cronyn, the first subject being "Praising God at all times." Many at that meeting would go forth with a renewed determination to live a life of praise to Him who redeemed them. Mrs. Cronyn also spoke of the believer's fears, and compared the physical with the spiritual condition:—if the nervous system were deranged we at once sought the advice of a physician; even so should we take our fears to the Lord, and He would prescribe for their removal. These meetings were highly enjoyable and much spiritual manna might be gathered from them.

On Wednesday evening the delegates were invited to a reception at the house of Mrs. McDougall, President of the Montreal Association, where a pleasant social evening was enjoyed. On Thursday evening a public farewell meeting was held in the American Presbyterian Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the venerable Dr. Wilkes, after which the whole audience rose and sang the doxology. The chairman, Rev. C. H. Walls, extended a hearty welcome to the delegates, and was followed by Rev. Mr. Bray, Rev. Mr. Gaetz, Principal Dawson, of Magill College, and Rev. Mr. Stephenson. The choir rendered several fine pieces of music during the evening—"He watches over Israel," "Worthy is the Lamb," and the "Pilgrim's Song," added considerable interest, and were heartily appreciated by the audience.

While the accounts of successful work were very encouraging, there appeared no lack of boldness to look at the difficulties attending some classes of labour. Many questions were put, and much useful information elicited from those whose

experience was valuable. Several lively discussions were provoked, bringing out many useful hints on points which often prove perplexing to the managers of Christian Associations.

In closing this sketch we would like once more to draw attention to the foregoing Scripture, noticing how very tenderly and graciously the Lord acknowledges the efforts of His people. Not waiting for the harvest, but, bestowing the blessing richly and freely upon the sowers. Many trembling, doubting children of God are filled with anxious care as to the results of their labour. Let us accept gratefully the gracious benediction bestowed upon the sowers, and leave the reaping in the hands of the Lord of the harvest.

E. L.

#### EARLY MEMORIES.

I had been acquainted with my venerable friend, Elder Oldham, for many years; say twenty. When I first formed his acquaintance, I was young—just through my college course; but he was even then growing old. I had passed my final examination with reasonably fair success, and had obtained my degree of A.B., and although I had not had the advantage of a regular theological course, I had, as I supposed, already obtained some favorable notice as a young preacher of fair promise, and probably had as favorable an opinion of myself as was proper. The "Elder" had never been at a college at all, nor indeed since his early childhood, at any tolerably good, common, or public school. When he commenced his course as a preacher, there was no such thing as a college in the province of Upper Canada, nor outside of a half dozen of the larger towns, any thing like a well conducted school of any kind. In very few of these schools which did exist, was anything attempted beyond the three R's, and to these our friend very seldom had access. It could not be expected, therefore, that he would be learned. Yet it would be very improper to say he was uneducated. He had read much and thought much. He had managed, even while struggling with poverty in a new country, to collect a pretty good library, and he had acquainted himself with its contents. He was fairly well versed in most of our eminent English authors, not only in Divinity, but in general literature and science also. He was at "home in the Scriptures," not simply that he retained a large portion of the sacred word in his memory, but what is still more important, he had carefully studied them as a whole, and had retained remarkably clear ideas of the great system of Divinity which they reveal. The apparent discrepancies between the revealed truths of God's absolute sovereignty and man's personal responsibility, (apparently discordant to many), gave him no trouble. He recognized a harmony sufficient to satisfy himself; or if on any point of detail he was unable to reconcile them, he was satisfied to let them rest as being beyond the present range of human thought. He never dogmatized on these subjects; but, in his preaching, presented them in such connections, and with