

Old and New Year.

THE Old Year with its record
Is gone forever more;
The New Year, full of promise,
Stands waiting at the door.

Ah, could we live it over!
So sigh we of the past;
Live we the new as wish we now
That we had lived the last.

The past, its lessons teaching,
With guiding light should shine,
To warn from self-dependence
And lead to grace divine.

With high resolve and holy,
With purpose firm and true,
Let us go forth with meekness
God's will and work to do.

Canada Seen by American Eyes.

BY WILLIAM REYNOLDS.

I HAVE been attending the Ontario Provincial Sunday-school convention, held at London, October 27, 28 and 29. The Ontario conventions are always good. This was no exception. There were over six hundred delegates enrolled. A finer body of Christian men and women I have not seen.

The clergy take more interest and attend our conventions in Canada more than in the United States. They show their wisdom in keeping in touch with this most important branch of Christian work. A minister should be on the "front line" in Sunday-school methods. I wish our theological seminaries would place this department on an equal footing with other departments of study. A minister should know how to conduct a Sunday-school, from the primary to the normal class, so he will know how it ought to be done, even if he is not called on to do it. He should also know how to teach, as well as preach. If he is to be our leader, he should know how to lead in the work.

There is no better field worker on either side of the line than Alfred Day. God bless him, and may his kind increase. We need a large crop of such men, and the means to support them in the work.

Dr. John Potts' address on "Echoes from the Boston Convention" was most inspiring. He spoke of the devotional spirit that pervaded the entire sessions; of the admirable reports of the Executive and Lesson Committees; of the great gains that had been made

numerically, and improvements made in methods the past three years through more thorough organization, and the inspiring influences of conventions. He said the Bible was the great international and interdenominational book, and upon it was our work founded. The convention closed in a very impressive manner, and the verdict was that it was one of the most practical and helpful meetings ever held in the Province.

I spent Sunday in Toronto. No such city exists on this continent or any other. It is like a breath from heaven to breathe the religious atmosphere of this place. A city of 200,000 inhabitants with not a street car running, nor a store, saloon, cigar stand or fruit stand open on Sunday. No papers published or sold on Sunday (not a Sunday paper published in all Canada). The streets filled with people going to or coming from church. It is a model city, a pattern to our Sabbath desecrating cities. I tell these people they will not enjoy heaven as much as we will, because the change will not be so great.

From Toronto I went to Montreal. I find the work progressing very favourably under the charge of Mr. Geo. H. Archibald. This Province is so largely composed of Roman Catholics, outside of Montreal, that it is hard to work along our regular lines. Some entire counties have not a Protestant school, and others one, two and three each. But progress is being made. While our method of organization is splendidly adapted to almost every State or Province, yet there are places where other methods must be used, and the Province of Quebec is one.

The plan there is to "do the best you can with what you have got." Mr. Archibald issues a call and programme for what he calls "a Sunday-school workers' week." It is really an institute and county convention combined. He sends a programme to the superintendent of each school in the county, town or district, and asks for the names of all officers, teachers and others, who will promise to attend. He then sends a personal letter to each of these persons, expressing his pleasure at their acceptance of his invitation, etc. This is a good idea, and is worthy of the consideration of county and township officers in other places. It insures a good attendance and an interested audience.

WHAT PROF. HAMILL SAW.

One of the noteworthy incidents of the Nova Scotia convention was the constant attendance and interest on the part of the faculty and president of the Nova Scotia Normal School, located at Truro. Very hearty invitations were extended by them to the two visitors to address the students of their fine school. It is a hopeful sign in our Sunday-school work when these trained and accomplished secular educators are interested in Sunday-school convention work.