

## OFFICE BEARERS.

The Office Bearers of an Association should be appointed on account of their fitness, and as being the best Sabbath School men to be found. As far as this principle admits, they should embrace all denominations represented. In this as in all matters, care should be taken to avoid stirring up opposition or jealousy on the part of any denomination. Hearty good will and co-operation are needed. The President should be a man of piety and earnestness; gentle and courteous in his manners; familiar with the rules which regulate the proceedings of deliberative bodies; prompt and decisive in action. He requires tact and judgment to keep the Convention moving on without loss of time; decision sufficient to stop *any one in any exercise* when the general good requires it, or the time allotted for the exercise has expired, and suavity to do so without giving offence. A Provincial Association should have as permanent office bearers, a President, Vice Presidents, a Provincial Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee; also a County Secretary for each County in the Province; and any special Committees that may be needed. When met in Convention, there will be needed in addition, several Assistant Secretaries, a Business Committee, through whom all business must come; and a Committee on resolutions to collect the general sense of the discussions and embody it in a series of resolutions to be reported near the close of the Convention. Other special Committees will be appointed as they may be required.

## SESSIONS.

The morning session should be preceded by a prayer meeting lasting half an hour; say from 8.30 to 9 o'clock. The exercises should embrace six to eight prayers or more; one or two addresses, and four or five songs. Besides these services, short and lively devotional exercises should be interspersed among the other engagements of the sessions. The singing should be of the most rousing spiritual kind; the prayers should be earnest and generally limited to definite objects desired. General indefinite petitions in prayer are unsuitable to the devotions of a Convention, as general speaking is unsuitable to its discussions. Let it be laid down as a positive rule that *all exercises of every kind in a Convention must be short.*

The time of a Convention is most precious, and should be used to the best advantage. All addresses and other exercises therefore, should be carefully prepared so as not to lose time. The members have met to be awakened to a deeper sense of the importance of the Sabbath School work, and to obtain light on the best way of doing that work. Their hearts are turned on the question how they can make their teaching more *plain*, so as to be easily understood, more *warm*, so as to touch the heart, and more *interesting*, so as to attract the little ones to Jesus. Let all exercises then be devout, interesting and impressive. The place is holy, and everything frivolous, commonplace and apart from the reigning spirit of the meeting should be put down. The Business Committee should exclude all irrelevant matters from their programmes, and in particular prevent any agents of religious operations which are only remotely connected with the Sabbath School from advertising any pet schemes before the Convention. The President in like manner should stop any irrelevant speaking in discussion and mercilessly ring down everything which is not to the point. A Convention cannot afford to listen even to good speeches, if they are not to the point in hand. Let the President then ring down every one who wanders from the subject; let him prohibit all discussion on points of order, by which even good men, if allowed, would destroy a session. No speaking is of any use unless it will either *stimulate* or *instruct*; let all else be put down. The one great and important object sought, is to bring the greatest influence to bear on the eternal interests of the children, and nothing should be allowed to divert the thoughts of the Convention from that object.