

may be placed in a condition to pay a certain amount of indebtedness. The plan we propose does not compel any individual to pay the amount specified, and certainly it is not intended to restrict him to that amount; so that the principle of voluntary giving remains uninjured. It is easy to raise objections against any scheme whatever, but that our present vague hap-hazard system might be improved every true friend of the Church must admit. Put congregations on their honor to raise at least a certain minimum, and appeal to them to exceed it if they can, and then definite guidance is given to them, and full room left for abounding generosity.

### THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

THE International Sabbath School Convention recently held at the City of Atlanta is worthy of more than a passing notice. It was an event in this age of events. It marks an epoch in the history of Christianity.

There was a large attendance. Upwards of four hundred delegates from all parts of the United States and the Dominion of Canada were assembled, including a number of the most distinguished clergymen of all denominations and of the most eminent Sabbath School workers.

The exercises are said to have been of a most delightful description. The singing of itself was worth the pains and the expense of the longest journey, and there were some delegates who came all the way from Mexico to attend the Convention. The brethren enjoyed sweet fellowship together, and it cannot but be that prayers expressive of such unity and of desires for the best interests of society will be speedily and richly answered by the prayer-hearing Father.

A variety of papers of a more than usually interesting nature were read and discussed. It shows the important position that is being attained by Sabbath Schools, that many days can be spent by so large a number in a profitable manner with such a subject as this of Sabbath School work. From a small beginning indeed the Sabbath School as a Christian institution has grown until it has reached fair and noble proportions, and is felt to be invaluable and indispensable. It is destined still to reach a higher development, as new methods of instruction are introduced and fresh objects to be accomplished are brought into view. The International series of lessons is an invaluable outgrowth of Sabbath School work. The point gained of concentrating the attention of the whole world upon one and the same portion of Scripture is doing much for the study of the Bible and the dissemination of a wholesome literature. The infant class is itself an institution. A prettier or more encouraging sight cannot be found anywhere than that which is presented by a large number of bright eyed, intelligent little ones listening eagerly to the lesson, or praising God with such words as, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

The International Convention is a broad platform upon which all denominations meet. It is therefore unsectarian in its character. What a gratifying progress has been made in "unsecting" the Churches in the course of a

few years! And yet the denominations are more clearly defined than ever, and their roots are deep and far reaching. We have learned in these days that the marriage of Christian Churches does not involve the destruction of their individuality. A Methodist is as pronounced a *genus homo* as ever he was. So is a Presbyterian. We know a Congregationalist whenever he gets on his hobby, and a hard shell Baptist cannot disavow himself. Nor is this desirable. Let every man be true to himself, true to his convictions, true to his Church, and he will be all the more fitted for a seat as delegate of the Sunday School International Convention.

It gives us pleasure to learn that the Convention has appointed its next meeting in 1881 to take place in our good city of Toronto. We need scarcely say the delegates are sure of a hearty welcome, and we shall look forward with much hopefulness to the great occasion, praying that God may bless the work more and more, so that when the Convention shall meet in Toronto it may prove a season of precious revival. We presume we are indebted to our Canadian delegates for this, and to the Rev. John Potts of this city, who by his kindly, humorous, and sensible speech in reply to the address of welcome to the Dominion representation did so much to represent worthily the Dominion in the domain of brother Jonathan. Canada is well represented on the committees, the Rev. W. Millard and Messrs. David Morrice and W. B. McNutt having been appointed on the Executive Committee; and Revs. John Potts and Principal McVicar on the Les-on Committee.

**PRESBYTERY OF MANITOBA.**—The Presbytery met in Knox Church, Winnipeg, on Wednesday, March 1st, at ten o'clock a.m. The attendance was not very large, owing to the state of the roads. A large amount of business was transacted of which the following items are of public interest:—The committee appointed at the last meeting for the purpose, reported that they had waited on the Premier of the Province, and that they were assured that the request to have issuers of marriage licenses appointed at Emerson, Little Britain, Palestine and Pembina Mountain would be carefully considered. The report was adopted and the committee continued. The committee on Sabbath observance reported progress and was reappointed. The committee appointed on temperance reported fully the steps taken by them in conjunction with other denominations and the satisfactory results in the legislation effected. A copy of the License Act accompanied the report. The committee was thanked for diligence and continued. The convener of the Foreign Mission committee reported fully from all posts occupied by the Church. The report was supplemented by an interesting address made by Rev. Mr. McKellar, who has recently returned from the Riding Mountain district. The school at Prince Albert is doing good work under Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson has also, in the absence of a missionary, been engaged in mission work in the settlement. The Presbytery appreciated his services in this respect and recommended the Home Mission committee of the General Assembly to make a grant of \$200 to defray all expenses. The attention of the Foreign Mission committee of the General Assembly was directed to the orphan children of the mission, and the desirability of their being put wholly under the missionary's charge. The Presbytery recommended the Foreign Mission committee of the General Assembly to make grants to aid in erecting mission premises on the Sioux Reserve near Fort Ellice, on the Bird's Tail Creek Reserve, and also to enable Mr. Flett to visit distant points of the Swan River district. The Foreign Mission committee of the Presbytery was charged with the duty of attending to this work. Arrangements were also made for conducting the Roseau school, and application was made for a grant from the General Assembly Foreign Mis-

sion committee to pay off certain arrears. The Foreign Mission committee of the Presbytery was instructed to prepare and transmit to the General Assembly's committee a full report of all business connected with this department of work during the last year. Prof. Bryce read the report of the Home Mission committee of the Presbytery. The report set forth the action of the committee in sending Rev. Mr. McKellar west to Portage Creek and High Bluff, Rev. Mr. Campbell to Contract 15, C.P.R., and recalling Rev. Mr. Ross to labor in Springfield, etc., the steps taken to secure a permanent missionary for contract 15, C.P.R., and the arrangements made for holding missionary meetings. The report also showed that at Sunny-side, Springfield, Little Britain, Selkirk, Boyne and Pembina Mountain, Emerson and Roseau, Grassmere, Rockwood, Winnipeg, Woodlands, High Bluff, Portage Creek, Portage la Prairie, Burnside, Woodside, Palestine, Golden Stream, Squirrel Creek, missionary meetings had been held and that arrangements were made for the same at the remaining points. The committee recommended that the Springfield group of stations be divided into two groups consisting respectively of Springfield, Sunnyside and Plympton, and Millbrook, Pointe de Chene, Caledonia, and Clear Spring, so soon as the sum of \$300 has been subscribed by each for the support of ordinances. The committee recommended that Rev. Mr. McKellar be stationed at Springfield till the next meeting of the Presbytery, and Rev. Mr. Ross at the Boyne and Upper Mountain for the same time, and that Messrs. Donaldson and Bell supply High Bluff and Portage Creek in the meantime. The committee, however, wished the Presbytery to declare to the people at the Boyne and Upper Mountain the impossibility of having a missionary settled there permanently unless a contribution of at least \$300 was made for his maintenance, this being a regulation adopted by the General Assembly's Home Mission committee. The committee also submitted a constitution for missionary societies. The report was received and after discussion adopted. A petition was presented from Springfield and Sunnyside asking for completion of organization; and the missionary in charge was instructed to call a meeting of the congregation for the election of managers to take charge of the temporal affairs of this congregation, and to take the usual steps for the election and ordination of a session. A draft report was presented by the Home Mission committee to the General Assembly's committee, and the committee was instructed to complete and transmit the same. Remits from the General Assembly to be considered by the Presbytery were then taken up. For the support of Montreal College, Knox College and Queen's College Theological Departments the Presbytery decided by a majority in favor of one fund. The consideration of the remit ancient the appointment of a mission agent was deferred. The questions proposed to be put to office bearers and the formula to be signed by the same were approved with the exception of one question about the standards, which was reserved for future consideration. The remit bearing on the widows and orphans fund was approved *simpliciter*. The remit on ecclesiastical procedure was remitted to a committee consisting of Rev. Messrs. Robertson and Ross and Rev. Dr. Black, and the committee was instructed to consider the questions deferred and bring in a report on all the subjects at the next regular meeting. There was laid on the table of the Presbytery from the congregations of High Bluff and Portage Creek a call in favor of the Rev. Mr. McKellar. The Rev. Mr. Bell, who had moderated in the call, stated that the call was hearty and unanimous. The call was sustained and placed in the hands of the rev. gentleman, who asked some time for its consideration. This the Presbytery readily granted. Rev. Principal Grant was nominated as the moderator of the next General Assembly. Rev. Messrs. Burthwick and Matheson by rotation, and Rev. Messrs. Robertson, Hart and Bell by election, were appointed clerical commissioners to the next General Assembly, and Prof. Bryce, Dr. Reid, Toronto, Mr. Croil, Montreal, Mr. McLellan, Hamilton, and Mr. McMicken, Winnipeg, were elected representative elders. Rev. Mr. Donaldson asked leave of absence for four months, which the Presbytery readily granted, dating from such time as would best suit the convenience of Mr. Donaldson. The Rev. Mr. Stewart, late of Battleford, applied for the usual Presbyterian certificate, when, on motion duly seconded, it was unanimously agreed to defer any action on the application, but instruct the clerk to correspond with Mr. Stewart and with the General Assembly's Home Mission committee so as to secure Mr. Stewart's services permanently for this Presbytery, if possible. The Presbytery appointed the fourth Wednesday in May, at ten a.m., as the date of the next regular meeting, and agreed to hold an adjourned meeting on the second Wednesday in April to receive Mr. McKellar's answer and attend to any other business that may come up.