

Spiritual Growth promoted by Affliction.

"HEREIN is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit," are the words of the Lord Jesus. Walking in my garden one day, I noticed a fruit-tree with sundry incisions in the bark. Turning to the gardener, I asked if this was not the work of some evil-disposed person or other. "No," said he, "I have done it. The tree is suffering from a tight skin, which prevents it from blooming, so I cut it to give it liberty." As I walked away I thought, such is sometimes the action of the heavenly Gardener. He sees the tightness setting in on those from whom he expected fruit, and so in love He applies the knife, that on the bed of sorrow and affliction there may bloom a new sympathy with the sufferings of others, the fruit of which shall be enlarged and lasting liberality.—*"Christian Giving," by W. H. Conyers.*

spheres of toil the holy fire to warm and cheer the hearts of fellow-workers in the same blessed cause.

Moreover, they are a great educative agency. The various modes of operation are compared, the excellences of the best noted for imitation, and the defects of inferior methods marked for their avoidance.


It is highly desirable that more time could be allotted to these gatherings than is generally possible. A session for two or three days will allow only a very cursory discussion of the numerous and important topics which are taken up. Other religious conventions, as well as those of a political or scientific character, remain in session for much longer periods. Systematical study of any Biblical subjects is out of the question, and that lack can be perhaps better supplied by means of books and periodicals; but modes of teaching can be best learned by example. Then, the very contact of soul with soul of those engaged in the same great work inspires fresh zeal, and often strikes out sparks of thought that would otherwise have remained dormant in the mind.

Moved by these considerations, we have gladly accepted the nomination of the Executive Committee of the Sunday School Association of Canada, as one of its delegates to the International Sunday School Convention to meet at Baltimore, Maryland, on the eleventh of May. We will diligently note all that takes place, learn all that we can in this gathering of Sunday School workers, and lay the results before our readers on our return.

Another useful purpose of these International Conventions, camp-meetings and other religious gatherings, is the knitting more firmly the bonds of amity between the neighboring nations, sprung from the same Anglo-Saxon stock, speaking the

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Sunday School Conventions.

In few respects, we think, has the peculiarly American system of Convention holding been attended with such marked advantages as in the case of those for the promotion of Sunday School interests. The most ardent and efficient Sunday School workers in a county, province, state or nation meet together for the exchange of ideas and comparison of modes of operation. They not only stimulate each other's enthusiasm, but so fire with zeal even the previously apathetic that they go away ablaze with holy ardour and carry to their respective