

were present, of whom more than 300 were from the United States and Canada, and among them were many of the world's leaders in Christian work. The great ones of the earth were there. Lord Kinncard delivered the address of welcome, and Count Bernstaff, of Berlin, and Dr. Cuyler, of New York, responded. The startling statement was made that out of 50,000,000 children in India there are only 217,100 in missionary day schools, and 100,000 in Sunday schools. What a work here to do! On the other hand, showing the great work done in promoting Bible study, it is estimated that at least ten millions of people study the international lessons. It was decided to send a memorial to the European Sovereigns asking them to exert their influence in favour of a proper observance of the Sabbath.

These conventions no doubt do good. They tend to develop the best methods of work. They show the magnitude of the work doing and the work to be done and thus at once inspire and stimulate. But let us not forget that no matter how large, influential or inspiring, they are only conferences. Sabbath school work, that which saves and guides the young which blesses earth and adds to heaven, is done not in grand conventions but in the prayerful, long continued, often discouraging work of the individual teacher in the S. S. class, with the individual scholar.

Read carefully the article on "British Opium in China" in the present issue. Mention is often made of Britain's responsibility and Britain's guilt in connection with the opium traffic in China, but the real merits of the case are very imperfectly understood. In this they are clearly set forth, and one cannot but shudder at the awful guilt incurred by a powerful *Christian* nation in forcing upon a heathen people at the point of the sword such an awful curse.

Even the deaf mutes not to be out-done hold their conferences. Their international congress met at Paris July 11th. Delegates came from the United States, England, Ireland, Canada, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, Austria and Spain. They represent 150,000 deaf mutes scattered throughout these different countries. When we look back to the time not far distant when these were allowed to grow up in ignorance, and regarded in a measure as burdens upon friends and society and contrast the present in which they take their place in life as helpers and benefactors of their race, we see one more evidence of the progress that compels us to exclaim. "What hath God wrought."

"A story is told of a good woman, the sole remaining member of what had been a feeble declining church, who when the presbytery had decreed the disbanding of the congregation stoutly declared that she "would not be dissolved" and the issue was that the church lived to see better days." A minister in Michigan writes of a case to match. "The church at salt river was dropped from our roll. But one of our men found it the other day, two male members, who "never asked to be disbanded, didn't want to be disbanded, and ain't going to be disbanded." And they say there is actually now an opening for that church. The disbanding of congregations is quite a common occurrence in the neighboring republic, owing to changes in population, but if all the members of a church were of the spirit of that woman or these two men what a grand work would be done. Let the small weak churches take courage. They may be without a minister, without settled ordinances, but they may live as a congregation and work, and prosper. Let them meet regularly, conduct what service they can and the Masters promised blessing will be fulfilled to the two or three who meet in his name.

"Of making many (hymn) books there is no end" Their name is legion. One thing that is beginning to be agitated is a "Common Hymnal." Some advocate a Common Presbyterian Hymnal, to be used by the Presbyterian Church the world over. Others go farther and claim a Common Hymnal for use in all Evangelical Churches. The former is quite practicable and there is no reason why it should not at once be attained. The Hymn books in use in the different Presbyterian Churches are largely identical. One result would be a making more visible the unity that already exists, and that very visibility would bind more strongly together the different branches of the scattered Presbyterian family. Another benefit that would result would be that wherever the members of our families might scatter the familiar strains of familiar hymns on familiar pages would comfort and cheer. Rev. John Morton of Trinidad advocates especially the desirability of a common hymnal in the mission fields, *e. g.* in India.

The child of God should remember that he has the root of every evil within him; if he take not heed to tend the garden of his conscience, evil weeds will spring up and grow; especially will the besetting sins of his unconverted days be his plague.