

pare the various methods in use in his particular department of labour, and to choose the best. The Superintendent learns how he may conduct the School so as to secure at once the greatest order and efficiency, the Librarian discovers the best method of managing his books; and the teacher has suggested to him a variety of ways, before unthought of, in which he may engage the attention, reach the understanding, and win the hearts of his scholars. And, what is better still,—all are set to thinking and planning how they may improve the school. Their hearts are enlisted anew, and each one finds for himself ways of doing his work more efficiently; for what we want is, not servile imitation of any one method, but a lively, earnest, and natural manner, combined with an intelligent and thoroughly evangelical presentation of divine truth. Thus the Sabbath School Convention becomes a kind of Normal School for the training of teachers, and lies at the very foundation of all true progress in our work.

Another most important object sought, and to a good degree secured, by such conventions, is:—

2. The spiritual quickening and encouragement of the teachers. It is not too much, perhaps, to say that the attendance on such occasions is made up, for the most part, of the best, most intelligent, and most earnest labourers in the Sabbath-School cause. We have, alas! in most of our schools, some teachers who make no public profession of religion, and who, it is to be feared, have no experimental acquaintance with the power of vital Godliness. But these would probably not be the choice of their fellow-teachers, as delegates to such a Convention, nor would they be likely to feel enough of interest in the objects of such a gathering, to lead them to attend if they were. Hence it is fair to infer that we get together, on such occasions, the very best class of Sabbath-School teachers.

More than that,—our Sabbath-Schools usually enlist the sympathies and co-operation of the very best and most earnest class of Church members, those who are foremost in every good work; and hence such a convention brings together the picked men,—*la crème de la crème*,—of the churches of all denominations, those who are, at once, the most able to do, and the most likely to get good.

Such a gathering can scarcely fail of the favour and blessing of Him who has promised that “whosoever two or three meet together in His name, there will He be in the midst of them.” They have left their homes in the East, and in the West, praying that He, whose command they are endeavouring to fulfil, in feeding the lambs of His flock, will manifest Himself unto them, and fit and equip them more thoroughly for His work. Their minds and hearts are in their most receptive condition. Speakers and hearers are in lively sympathy with each other. Every encouraging word, every earnest appeal, every illustration of the power of divine truth, or of the faithfulness of God in hearing and answering prayer, tells upon them, until their hearts are all aglow with the love of Christ. So that, even if they should return to their homes, unable to carry with them anything beyond a general impression of what they had heard, they would not have attended the Convention in vain.

“It is something good,” says an eminent minister of the Gospel, in England, in reference to similar gatherings, “simply to meet, even though our meetings were in silence. It is good to look each other in the face with confidence and love, and to say by the steady light of the eye, and by the peace that overlays the countenance, ‘Brother, another year has gone, but I am still true to our Master, and loyal to our King.’ It is good to grasp each other’s hands, as a symbol of the charity that never faileth, and as a sign of the outloving love which is superior to the severing power of absence, and of distance, and to the destructive force of the teeth of time. It is good for the heart that has, perhaps, through months felt solitary, to feel many kindred spirits near. It is good to show by our very coming together, that, as members of one body, we have some