

The Hon. JAS. FERRIER, having taken the chair, spoke as follows:—

Christian Brethren: I have repeatedly during the course of my life occupied positions of honor and responsibility, but never before have I felt myself so highly honored, nor have I occupied so responsible a position as I do this day, in presiding over this large and deeply interesting assembly of delegates from Sunday Schools, East, West, North and South. Were we met in this place to determine what course to pursue in reference to some great political question affecting the material interests of Canada, how many eyes would be on us! how many would be ready either to censure or applaud the decisions at which we might arrive! But, it is for no such deliberation we are called together. The purpose of our meeting is to consider whether more cannot be done in our Sunday Schools to give to the children of this Province a more thorough Bible education; and if this Convention should, during its present session, devise means superior to those now employed in the conducting of our Sunday School work, or if it should excite a stronger feeling in the breast of every delegate in this house, so that we may return to our schools with redoubled energy to teach the rising generation the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, the end will be fully answered.

Sunday School teaching will, in my opinion, increase the prosperity of our rising country to a far greater extent than any political question which has ever occupied the attention of our Legislature; and it is capable of effecting what no purely secular education can effect, viz.:—the establishment of that high moral and religious character, without which there can be no security to either person or property. Gentlemen, I feel deeply on this subject; and I believe that the future destiny of our country depends on the sound religious and moral training which our children receive in the Sabbath School. Let us for a moment look at our Province, divided as it is into two classes—the Protestant and Roman Catholic, and let us note the difference between them, which we attribute to the effects of the Bible. We Protestants believe that God has given us the Bible as his revealed will; that he commands us to read and obey it; and that it is our duty to teach it to our children and all around us. To the Roman Catholics the Bible is a closed book—they are prohibited from reading it, and the result is lamentable in this country as well as on the continent of Europe. I point to these facts to show that the present and future prosperity of our Province depends on the thorough Bible education we give to our children. And I would ask—where are they to get this? The District Schools do not furnish it; neither do the other schools established for secular education; and, therefore, we have to look to our Sunday Schools as our only hope, and we expect, by promoting their interests, to attain the desired end. For ever shall I thank God that I was born in Scotland, and that in the school where I was educated, there were a Bible and a Testament class. But, gentlemen, when we consider that not only the temporal prosperity, but the eternal destiny of every human being depends on his being made savingly acquainted with the glorious plan of Redeem-

ing mercy revealed in the Bible, and when we remember that so large a portion of our race die in youth, is it not our duty to teach the children of our Province to read that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life?" Our children must read that Jesus came from heaven to earth to save them. They must hear of the love of Jesus to children when on earth,—how he took them in his arms and blessed them. Where, I ask, can this be done so well as in the Sunday School? For about thirty years past, I have been teaching or superintending Sabbath Schools, and during that time, I have seen the glorious effects of Bible truth on the minds of children. I have seen them die happy in the prospect of spending an eternity with Jesus, who said: "Suffer little children to come unto me." I rejoice to be able to report to this Convention, that in the school of which I am at present the superintendent, there have been, during the past year, about thirty young persons converted to God, and that in Montreal, our prospects of further success are brighter than they ever have been.

Gentlemen, a great deal has been done, and is now doing, to furnish a liberal secular education to the youth of our Province, and no one can be more anxious than I am to secure this. But let us never forget that the sciences do not teach the way of salvation. Mathematics will never solve the problem—how can a sinner be justified before his offended God?—nor can mental philosophy ever show that the carnal mind is enmity against God. No! in the sciences, whether physical or metaphysical, there is no voice which tells us of the height, the depth, the length and the breadth of the love of God to man. To the Bible, therefore, and to the Bible alone, let us go, and take with us the children and youth of our land, that from the study of that Book of Life, teachers and children may be made wise unto salvation.

After further devotional exercises:—

Mr. S. B. Scott moved that the President do appoint a Business Committee. Carried.

The Chairman named—

Rev. F. H. Marling,	Rev. Geo. McDonald,
" J. Elliot,	" J. Shortt,
" A. Bullard,	Mr. James Walker.
" W. Jeffers,	" S. B. Scott.

Mr. J. W. Taylor moved, and it was resolved, that the roll be made up, and in doing so, in order that delegates may become known to one another, that each rise in his place, announce his own name, the name of the School he represents, and the name of the place in which it is situated.

Roll of delegates present taken accordingly.

The Rev. Mr. SMART, after announcing his name, mentioned that he represented the oldest Sunday School in Canada, it having been founded in 1811, whereupon it was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously, that the Rev. Mr. Smart be the first Vice President of the Convention.