

Mr. J. K. McDonald, of Toronto, agreed with the last speaker. What they needed in the country more than anything else was the presence of one or two leading spirits, who should take the initiative worthily. As to the introduction of literary discussion that should be regulated by the wants of the locality. In some places, such as Toronto, the introduction of this plan would inevitably lead to the destruction of their Association. Elsewhere such a plan might be of immense advantage.

Mr. Thomas Craig, of Port Hope, believed in making the meetings interesting by literary discussions.

Mr. Robert Baldwin, of Toronto, said, that if it were necessary to have the intellectual element, by all means let it be introduced. But members should keep their thumb well on it, or else it would soon totally displace the religious element.

Mr. Thos. Muir, of Hamilton, said, that they had in their Association two meetings weekly. One was for purely literary matter, and the other for devotional exercises. That plan had been found to work very well.

Dr. Skinner, of Kingston, advised the reading of short essays at the weekly meetings. In Kingston an Association in connection with one of their churches had been exceedingly prosperous. They had a large hall, which was well filled, and at these meetings they had a very efficient choir, and their musical selections were carefully prepared. Again, essays were read—sometimes essays which had been prepared by ladies,—and occasionally a public lecture of interest added variety to the proceedings.

The discussion then closed.

An unknown friend sent up a short communication suggesting that the Y. M. C. Associations required the aid and prayers of mothers, and that they could do much by special prayer, and personal effort on behalf of their sons, and other young men, to bring them to Christ.

The hymn, "*Now, O Lord, we ask Thy blessing,*" was sung; after which, Rev. J. G. Manly, of Toronto, engaged in prayer.

The Convention then proceeded to consider

THE FOURTH TOPIC.

"How shall we increase the numbers and efficiency of our smaller Associations?" which was introduced by

Mr. F. W. Morse, of Port Hope, who was allowed fifteen minutes. He said one of the first means to increase the efficiency of their Associations was the prayer-meeting. There should be no long prayers, no long exhortations, no lengthened readings from the Bible, but make the proceedings under each head as