

vention should in good time appoint provisional committees to make all needful arrangements.

As soon as possible, arrangements should be made to furnish entertainment for the delegates who are expected, and as much as possible should be done beforehand in assigning the guests to their entertainers, so as to avoid delay and confusion on their arrival. The provisional committees should have everything which can be done beforehand in readiness, as the transaction of preliminary business at the opening of a Convention may have a most disastrous effect on the spirit and tone of the meeting. The opening exercises should be devotional and stimulating, so as to intensify and perpetuate the holy joy which will be felt in such an assembly.

When a Convention assembles, a certain amount of business must be transacted, and its effect on the spirit of the meeting will depend very much on the wisdom with which preparation has been made. After the opening with devotional exercises has taken place, it is usual to appoint a Nominating Committee, who immediately retire for deliberation, and then comes a difficulty respecting the way in which the time should be occupied until the Committee are ready to report. If left to hap-hazard, it may become a time of dulness, or of exercises unsuitable to the occasion. Feelings of delicacy and fear of offending should be set aside, and definite arrangements should be previously made for filling up the time in a useful manner. *Mere speech-making should at all times be discouraged*, and experience shows that the members of a Convention at its first session are not prepared to make *volunteer addresses of real value and interest*. It is recommended, therefore, that a number of persons be asked beforehand, each to prepare his thoughts so as to make a short address on a subject named. Let these addresses be interspersed with prayers and singing, all very short. Thirty to forty-five minutes spent in addresses of five minutes each (or perhaps one of them of ten minutes), prayers of two minutes each, interspersed with singing four to eight lines of a rousing hymn, will be well spent, and will avoid the feelings of uneasiness and disappointment which are often experienced at the opening of a Convention. The Nominating Committee having brought in their report, the appointment of office bearers for the Association, with the several Committees required, may be made in a few moments. The Business Committee will then have to retire and prepare for the next Session. This will be a suitable time for the reading of an Essay. If one is to be read, the preparation of it will of course have been provided for by the Provisional (or Executive) Committee. After being read, the Essay should be discussed in volunteer speeches of from three to five minutes. The Business Committee having made a report of arrangements for the next Session, the first will be closed with devotional exercises.

At all the Sessions of the Convention, the details of business should be so arranged as to be transacted with as little delay as possible, and while a certain amount of routine must be gone through, care on the part of the Business Committee may prevent it from dissipating the higher feelings which a Convention seeks to cherish. It should be remembered that it is precious time for the spiritual interests of the delegates and the interests of many Sabbath Schools which is being used, and every moment unnecessarily spent in mere routine or in fruitless discussion is a serious loss to the highest interests of human souls. Hence the necessity for strict order, rigid punctuality, and the shortest speeches consistent with the object for which they are made.

A Provincial Convention will usually meet in the afternoon, and continue two days and a half; one for a County should continue one day and a half; a local Convention may meet and continue as suits the convenience of the members.