

'mornings; and during the latter part of the season, two churches, one north and one south, were occupied. And these gatherings were as impressive and refreshing as they were large. The people assembled as with one heart to go and pray before the Lord.

Such gatherings cannot be continued for successive weeks and months, but the spirit of them may be preserved, and we may make 1870 a year of special prayer for Christ's presence in the ordinances of His grace, and for the manifestation of His glory in the conversion of sinners.

Many in our congregations and not a few in our families are persuaded that they ought to be Christians, and have desires, to commit themselves to Jesus, and to declare themselves on His side. But some, from fears of self-deception, and others from want of decision, are waiting for a *time to come*, when they will fully surrender and dedicate themselves heartily and openly to the Lord. They are waiting for conversion, for penitence, for confessions, for strength, in short for all the blessings which they are invited to come to *receive* from the Lord Jesus. While thus hesitating, they keep one another in countenance in this most unsatisfactory condition, until a day of power dawns upon them, when they surrender and begin a new career. For such a day, for such a year, let us continue to pray, so that as it commenced with fervent and united prayer, it may close with many thanksgivings to the God of all grace, for sons and daughters born from above, and for large accessions to the Church of the living God, of such as shall be saved.

We need only add that prayer and pains should go together, and that we may by affectionate counsel aid many a timid, anxious inquirer in finding and following the way to the Zion above.

### A SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The religious body, which has above 319 schools, 1379 teachers, and 11,283 pupils, with 158 Bible classes and 3546 attendants, and a standing committee on Sabbath Lessons and Books, cannot be indifferent to

the proceedings of any Sabbath School Convention held in the Lower Provinces. Such a gathering of the Teachers of Halifax and Dartmouth was held in this city on the third week of January. The meetings extended over three afternoons and evenings; the programme was carefully prepared and well carried out, the attendance was respectable, and the proceedings deeply interesting. Many excellent suggestions were thrown out on such subjects as Relation of the Pastor to the Sabbath School, Teachers' Meetings, Teachers' duties out of School, Temperance in Sabbath Schools, Early Conversion, Duties and Interests of Parents in the School, How to conduct a Sabbath School Lesson? How to retain the older scholars? The Teacher studying the Lesson, Jesus the model Teacher, and the use of Illustrations.

On all these subjects much was said to stimulate and encourage teachers, and to lead to more zealous co-operation on the part of parents and christians generally.

We will touch on two topics out of many which invite remark. The first is the organization of the school, and on this subject the remarks of Mr. Rand, the Superintendent of Education, seemed to find a general response, as well entitled to be more fully carried out in practice. He said that we had only to follow the guiding hand which nature held out, to see the need of a primary, an intermediate, and a higher or senior department, in every school of any extent. The primary department should embrace the smaller children. In *them* perception was quick, and object lessons should be used, as far as possible, consisting chiefly of Bible stories, illustrated, where practicable, by pictorial representations. In this department, a large number, say 20 or 30, might be taught, by one teacher, who must be apt and lively, keeping up the attention by brief lessons, interspersed with singing adapted to their age.

The intermediate department should include the larger children, those who were over 10 or 12, in whom *memory* was specially active. This is the age for committing to memory catechisms, and especially portions of the word of God, both of which were re-