

### International Students Convention at Toronto.

As the date for the fourth Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement, to be held at Toronto, February 26 to March 2, draws near, preparations are being rapidly hastened, both at the Toronto headquarters and at the Volunteer office. So general is the interest in this gathering that the utmost resources available are sorely taxed. Colleges and other institutions of higher learning, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are taking steps to appoint large and influential delegations in cases where this has not already been done.

Interest in the city where the Convention meets is most natural. Its architectural beauty, its high reputation as a scholastic centre, and its dominating influence in the evangelical life of the Dominion combine to make it an ideal gathering place. To this may be added, in the case of delegates from the States, the charm of the transplanted English life as affected by early French traditions. It is a bit of England with something of the Sabbath atmosphere of Scotland, mingled with the spirit and enterprise of America. The student life of Toronto is likewise a unique composite of British and American ideas and customs, with which it will be most interesting to become acquainted.

Interest in the coming Convention is further justified by the acceptance already received. These include the leading missionary advocates of the United States and Canada, missionaries from all the great fields, many of them with a world-wide reputation,

and persons whose fame is in every mouth in connection with the recent uprising in China—the falsely defamed and rightly lauded Dr. Ament, and Prof. Gamewell, defender of the legations, both of Pekin, being among them. Young people's society leaders, whose names are household words, will be present, as will men and women of spiritual power, some of whom are already known to students, Mr. Speer and Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, for example. Editors and educators of influence and wide reputation will constitute an important part of the personnel. Best of all, Mr. Mott, whose five months' tour among the students of Japan, China and India, has been a prolonged experience of remarkable successes, will preside. His words will alike inspire and empower all who hear him.

Difficulties to be feared in case of a late appointment of representatives are suggested by the fact that, at a number of remote colleges, delegations twice as large as were sent to the Convention at Cleveland in 1893 have been appointed, and also by the plans of large institutions like Cornell University and Yale, where the remarkable record of 1893 is likely to be exceeded. Since the delegates are to be entertained by the hospitality of the people of Toronto, it has been necessary to limit the total attendance to 2,500, of whom 2,000 will be students. From present indications, it is apparent that this number of men and women, from fully 500 institutions, will easily be reached—undoubtedly the greatest student religious gathering the world has ever seen.