

CONVENTION OF DELEGATES

FROM

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CANADA

AND

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES.

WEDNESDAY, 11th Feby., 1857.

Conformably to the arrangements of the local Committee, delegates assembled in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Sydenham Street.

At half-past 9 a.m. the Rev. Mr. Marling called the Meeting to order, and proposed Dr. Mair, of Kingston, as temporary Chairman.

Nomination approved.

Dr. MAIR accordingly took the Chair, and called upon the Rev. Mr. Lanton, to open the meeting with prayer.

After which Dr. MAIR said, that he did not think it necessary to read the circular by which this Convention had been called together. It was sufficient to say that it had originated in a committee appointed to meet in Kingston, for the purpose of considering its expediency. Three committees were named, one for Montreal, one for Toronto, and one for that city, and the result was manifested in the highly respectable meeting then before him. It afforded him the utmost pleasure to be called to the position he then held; and he would remark that he had been much struck the day before with the remarkable intelligence and good countenances of the numerous Delegates who had arrived for the purpose of attending the Convention. He had lived in countries where he had become familiar with very different faces. He had been in N. S. Wales and Van Diemens Land, where he frequently had to encounter persons of the very worst characters, and could state it as a remarkable fact that crime stamped its impression on the countenance. Having had these opportunities then of observation, he could not help comparing the benevolent and intellectual faces before him with those of men who had been familiar with crime, and with everything else which tended to make the heart worse than it naturally was. He cordially entered into the desires expressed in the prayer just offered, and had no doubt the Convention would tend greatly to the advancement of the cause in which all were so much interested. He felt, too, that the Lord would be present with them. It was delightful to reflect that there were present men who merged all their differences in love—love to God—love to Jesus—love to the Spirit of Truth and Holiness. Would that the day might shortly be seen when all men, of all the various opinions which were entertained, would come

together to advance the cause of the common Lord. In the large correspondence which had taken place on this subject, he thought that there was but a single letter in which the writer ventured so far as to oppose this movement, "because this Convention would consist of rather heterogeneous materials." That he (Dr. Mair) could not understand. Heterogeneous! He took it the materials were quite the reverse. Had they not one Father?—one Saviour?—one Spirit influencing them all? Now, then, could the body be heterogeneous? They were all one in Christ Jesus. To these few remarks he had only to add, that it was his duty to call for the appointment of a temporary Secretary.

Mr. GEO. HARCOURT, thereupon nominated Mr. J. W. TAYLOR, of Montreal, and he was appointed to that office.

Mr. S. J. LYMAN, then moved the appointment of a nominating Committee to nominate officers, and the Chairman named

Messrs. S. J. LYMAN, Montreal.
 " D. BEADLE, St. Catherine's.
 " GEO. HARCOURT, Toronto.
 " JOHN PATON, Kingston.
 " W. BEGO, London.

The committee retired, and devotional exercises were engaged in for half an hour.

The nominating committee having returned, reported the following names for the officers of the Convention, and the nominations were unanimously adopted, viz:—

HON. JAMES FERRIER, President.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

• Rev. R. V. ROGERS, Midland District.
 • Mr. J. S. SANDHORN, M.P.P., Eastern District.
 Mr. WM. BEGO, Western District.
 Dr. JOHN MAIR, Kingston.
 Mr. Sheriff THEADWELL, Ottawa District.
 Rev. WM. LANTON, Prescott.

SECRETARIES:

Rev. JOHN SCOTT, Bath.
 Rev. THOS. HONGSKIN, Doon.
 Mr. J. W. TAYLOR, Montreal.

* These gentlemen were not present. The Nominating Committee put their names on the list of officers, as it was understood that they would be present.