

were Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians and Presbyterians; there were farmers, mechanics and merchant princes—doctors of law and of divinity—ministers of the gospel and of justice—generals in the army and an ex-governor; there were men great in business, science, industry and arms, all meeting in beautiful harmony, feeling one common impulse, banded in one common cause, working with an earnestness which we never saw equalled, and with an enthusiasm worthy of the glorious cause in which all were enlisted.

Admirable business tact marked the proceedings and a surprising amount of work was done. Committees had charge of special departments. Resolutions were presented by these committees which were generally so well matured that they passed by acclamation. Subjects for discussion were proposed by the Executive committee, the time set and the party to open appointed. Ten minutes were allowed the party who introduced the subject and three minutes to any one who followed in the discussion. Every speaker felt that eight hundred auditors were hanging with eager expectation on his words, not waiting for oratorical flourishes, but for some practical and useful hints on christian work. He knew that if he wandered from the point he would be promptly called to order, and that if he went beyond his time down would go the bell of the President and down he must go with it. Hence brevity and point were in demand, and pith and power gained. Prayer and praise were intermingled with discussion; prayer, not long drawn out, but a few short pithy petitions; praise, usually one verse, touching the very point in hand and in volume that carried all hearts upward.

The harmony that prevailed was wonderful. In all the vast variety of classes and opinions represented, there was scarcely a jar. Love to Christ and for each other seemed to remove every root of bitterness. When any evidence of a contentious spirit would appear the chairman would propose prayer, which seemed to draw down a better spirit; or a hymn of love which carried our thoughts and feelings to a higher and purer region.

Earnestness was another marked feature. Some of the delegates had come three thousand miles to attend that meeting, and we may well suppose they were interested in the proceedings. In every speech made, in every prayer offered, in every hymn sung, we saw the working of earnest spirits.—Every one appeared to feel the grandeur of the work, the tremendous issues at stake, and the terrible power of the foe; and every heart seemed nerved anew to do the work and fight the battles of our common Lord. The enthusiasm at times was almost unbounded.

The heart of that Convention was loyal to the Bible. That book was the recognized guide of all activity and the standard of all appeals. Portions of it were read at the opening of each sederunt, and the deep solemn hush of the vast assembly as the words of inspiration were uttered, told how reverently all bowed to that authority; and we felt that so long as that respect and love for the truth remained, fanaticism had no home in that Convention. Loyalty to the church was another pleasing feature. Connection with some evangelical church was made the test of active membership, thus bringing the whole movement, in an important sense, under church control.—Some one had said, "The Association is church enough for me." Referring to such sentiment, Moody of Chicago, said: "If I thought I had one drop of blood in me disloyal to the church of God, I'd let it out before I left this place. The church first;" and the enthusiastic burst of prolonged applause which greeted that nervous utterance showed plainly that there can be no clashing between these institutions and the church. They are indeed a part of the church doing a special work. Still more prominently appeared loyalty to Christ. The motto of the Convention set Jesus on high, and the overpowering sentiment of the meeting kept Him there. First, in every one's heart seemed to be the glory of Christ, and when the idea was proposed of broadening the basis to admit moral Unitarians and Universalists, jealousy for the honour of our Lord and determination to give Him His place as God produced a