

the month of February last, by a Convention which met in Toronto, consisting of delegates from various parts of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

The Canada Temperance Union designs to unite and concentrate the efforts of all temperance men and organizations favorable to the cause of total abstinence, to labor by every possible means, through the agency of the pulpit, and by the dissemination of sound temperance literature, as well as by public lectures, and all other just and legitimate means.

The document was referred to a Committee on Memorials, who will take the several suggestions of the Union into consideration, and report the same in due time to Conference.

The question, What preachers are now recommended to be received on trial? was then taken up. The several Districts were called over and the following brethren recommended by the respective Quarterly Official Meetings and District Meetings were received:—Joseph Galloway, Wm. Henry Fife, Jas. Montgomery, Coverdale Watson, James A. Wade, Benjamin B. Keefer, Nathan Austin, George Wm. C. J. V. Richard G. James, James Charlton, Edward Haddin Taylor, John Grenfell, Edwin A. Chown, Isaac Tovell, James Fear, Daniel W. Thompson.

Several notices were read from the platform, and several announcements were made, none of which, however, were of public interest. The Conference adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

THE S. S. UNION.

LARGE AND INTERESTING MEETING LAST NIGHT.

ELOQUENT ADDRESSES BY THE PRESIDENT, A. W. LAUDER, ESQ., M.P.P., DR. NELLES AND OTHERS.

The Anniversary of the Sunday School Union, held last night in Richmond Street Church, was a decided success. The spacious building was well filled above and below, and all seemed to be deeply interested in the proceedings.

At half-past seven the Rev. Geo. Cochran gave out the 37th hymn, which was sung with great spirit by the vast audience, after which the Rev. J. H. Bishop led the meeting in prayer.

The President of the Conference occupied the chair, and addressed the meeting in his usual eloquent manner. He beheld with pleasure such a goodly attendance. He felt a deep and abiding interest in Sabbath School work, and had been so long identified with it that he had become familiar with all its details. He graduated from a scholar into teacher of the A B C class, and then had passed through the successive grades until he had bloomed into a Superintendent. He confessed that in former times he had looked with a feeling akin to suspicion on the Sunday School work, as something separate from the regular organization of the church; but he, in connection with others, had been led to see the importance of a more vigorous working of the institution. A census which had been taken in a certain town in England revealed the startling fact, that some 50 or 60 per cent of the criminals of that town had passed through the Sunday Schools. This revealed a serious defect—a missing link—in their Sunday School system. He believed that in this country, that missing link was more fully supplied than in England. In not a few instances, congregations could be found where very few persons took that interest in Sabbath Schools which they ought. He thought that all baptized children, at least, should be under the pastoral care of the church. He was glad then an attempt was being made to interest and retain the older scholars, when arriving at the most critical period of their lives, at that period when to call the lad a boy would be an insult, and yet he is not a man. He was glad that an effort was being made to supply the missing link. He felt that he was in danger of making a speech, (applause) and he was glad to see the audience appreciate the danger; (laughter and cheers), but as chairman of the meeting he might claim the privilege, in half a dozen other speeches, of making up for what he might overlook in the first.

The President then called upon the Rev. A. Sutherland to read the Annual Report of the Union.

REPORT.

The Provisional Board of Directors of the Wesleyan Sunday School Union beg to present to the members and friends of the Association their first Annual Report.

It will be remembered that, at the Conference of 1868, an amended Constitution for the Union was adopted, and a Provisional Board of Directors was appointed to carry its provisions into effect. The Board held its first meeting on the 24th of Sept., and formally organized by appointing the following officers:—

PRESIDENT.—(ex officio) Rev. W. M. Punshon, M.A.
VICE PRESIDENTS.—Rev. L. Taylor, D.D., Co-Delegate, D. B. Chisholm, Esq., Hamilton, John Macdonald, Esq., Toronto, J. A. Mathewson, Esq., Montreal, M. Lavell, Esq., M.D., Kingston.
TREASURER.—W. T. Mason, Esq., Toronto.
SECRETARY.—Rev. A. Sutherland, Yorkville.

A Circular was then prepared setting forth the nature and objects of the Association, and circulated as extensively as possible among the Ministers and Sunday School Superintendents of the Connexion.

As the Union is yet in its infancy, and its nature and claims imperfectly understood, the Directors have not much to report in the way of direct results. Their work, so far, has been initiative; but the manner in which the whole project has been endorsed by many of our ministers and people, inspires the confidence that the objects of the Union only need to be known in order to be heartily sustained by the entire church.

The Directors are convinced that the success of the Union, as well as the progress of the Sunday School work generally, will depend, to a considerable extent, upon the appointment of a suitable agent, who would devote his whole attention to this important department of the church's work; and they venture to express the hope that the matter will receive the favorable consideration of the Conference at its present session.

From many parts of the work communications have been received from ministers and others, strongly urging a reduction in the price of our Sunday School Periodicals. The Directors are aware that, when the quality of the publications in question is taken into consideration, the prices are now very low, nevertheless it appears that, in not a few of our schools, our own periodicals are supplanted by other and inferior publications, whose teachings are not in harmony with the distinctive doctrines of Methodism, simply because they are offered at a cheaper rate. This fact, in the estimation of the Directors, invests the question with a grave importance, and points out the necessity for a speedy and effectual remedy. They commend the matter, therefore, to the consideration of the Conference, to which the control of our periodicals properly belongs.

The Statistical Returns for the year have been received only in part, and the Directors cannot, therefore, present a numerical statement. These returns, as soon as received, will be published in the usual way.

All which is respectfully submitted.

A. SUTHERLAND, Gen. Secretary.

The Rev. J. H. Bishop, in a few appropriate remarks moved the adoption of the Report, and the appointment of the following persons, as officers-bearers for the ensuing year:—

President, (ex officio) Rev. W. M. Punshon, M. A.

Vice-Presidents, Rev. Geo. Douglas, Co-Delegate, D. B. Chisholm, Esq., Hamilton, John Macdonald, Esq., Toronto; J. A. Mathewson, Esq., Montreal; Dr. Lavell, Kingston.

Treasurer, W. T. Mason, Esq., Toronto.

Secretary, Rev. A. Sutherland, Yorkville.

The Rev. W. J. Hunter briefly seconded the Resolution which was carried unanimously.

A Hymn was sung, after which the President called upon the General Secretary to explain the nature and objects of the Union.

The Rev. A. Sutherland referred to the rapid growth and extent of our Sunday School Work, and said the conviction had for years been shared by many that it should be more thoroughly organized. The leading objects contemplated by the Union were these:—1. To render our Schools more thoroughly connexional in their character and government; 2. To extend our Sunday School operations into new localities; 3. To secure a purer and cheaper Sunday School literature; and 4. To secure better qualified Teachers. These objects could not be obtained without an effective organization, supplied with the necessary funds for the employment of Agents, &c. He believed that these objects would commend the Union to the hearty support of both ministers and people.

The President then called upon A. W. Lauder, Esq., M.P.P., to move the First Resolution:—

Resolved.—That in view of the growing extent and importance of our Sunday School Work, and the consequent need of more careful supervision, this meeting calls, with peculiar satisfaction, the organization of the Wesleyan Sunday School Union, believing that, when its objects are fairly understood, it will tend to develop the connexional principle among our Schools, to increase the efficiency of our Teachers, to cheapen and more widely extend our Sunday School literature, and thus become a powerful agent in the evangelization of the entire country.

Mr. Lauder addressed the audience in an eloquent and telling speech. Space will not permit us to give the address here, but a full report of it will be given to-morrow.

The Rev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., seconded the Resolution in a brilliant speech, which called forth frequent and warm applause. A full report of the Doctor's address will appear to-morrow.

J. A. Donly, Esq., of Simcoe, was called upon to move the second Resolution.

Resolved.—That for the more efficient carrying out of the objects of the Union, this meeting would respectfully urge upon the consideration of the Conference the appointment of a General Sunday School Agent, with instructions to travel at large throughout the Connexion, visiting Sunday Schools and introducing the disciplinary Constitution, collecting funds for the Union, holding Conventions or Teacher's Institutes, and in such other ways as may be deemed advisable, seeking to promote the objects of the Association.

He was of opinion that the children should be led to Christ. That object should never be lost sight of. It had sometimes been said that the Sabbath Schools in the United States were the most efficient of their kind, and he believed that the great reason of this was that teachers there were taught to labor for this, and they never lost sight of it.

Rev. S. D. Rice, D.D., was called upon by the President to second the Resolution, who intimated that the Doctor had long been familiar with what was designated a somewhat difficult part of Education. Dr. R. spoke in his usual energetic and forcible manner. The resolution contemplated the appointment of an agent to labour under the direction of the S. S. Union.

Of course, this was something new in Methodism, as we had no such agent at present; but he conceived that if the Union was to be worked, an agent was indispensably necessary. He knew what he said when he declared that such were the numerous duties devolving upon Ministers in their circuits. That it was simply impossible for them to attend the S. Schools in their circuits. When men have preached three times on Sabbath, led one or more classes, besides preaching and travelling during the week, were there any time to give to the S. School?

Even in the cities where, as a general thing, there were only two preaching services to attend on Sabbath, the Minister could not give his undivided attention to this subject, he could not do more than merely look in occasionally. An agent would thus supply the lack. The Dr. was glad for what he had heard that night respecting the literature of the S. School. For years he had seen that this was a dangerous rock. The country was just now flooded with novelistic literature, a good portion of which was of the most dangerous description. Our young people who read this kind of books, were not only unfitted for more severe studies but were actually ruined for life; and was it not alarming that so many of our S. S. Libraries contained quantities of this pernicious literature? And how can it be prevented? He knew of no better method, than having a *live* man to go up and down the country, making it his business to acquaint himself with every matter connected with this subject. By the counsels of such an Agent, and the gathering of information such as would accumulate as he proceeded with his work, he felt sure that much good would be certain to accrue. Doubtless there were those who would remind him of the expense. True, but he would remind them that there was such a thing, as *crime* which was not the least expensive thing that he knew. He was bold to say there was nothing in this world so expensive as *sin*. Were the expense tenfold more than it was likely to be, he for one would not hesitate on that account. The good that would result from the labors of an agent, such as was contemplated, would great exceed in magnitude any cost that would connect itself with the appointment.

The President, in closing the proceedings, said that he was of opinion that the meeting had been a complete success, even had no other good been achieved than merely calling attention to the fact mentioned by Mr. Lauder, that we still need a History of Methodism adapted to children; but then there was also the delightful speech of Dr. Nelles, which he pronounced to be one of the most superior that it had been his privilege to hear for many a day. The Doxology was sung, and the Rev. S. Rose pronounced the benediction.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE SETTLEMENT OF UPPER CANADA, BY WM. CANNIFF, M. D., M. R. C. S. E. Toronto: A. Dredge & Co.

This admirable work forms a large octavo of 700 pages, well printed and well bound. Its talented author, Dr. Canniff, has already achieved a high reputation as a writer, by a former work on the "Principles of Surgery," and he has here won fresh laurels in a wider field. To the completion of his work the author has brought wide research, patient industry, and practiced literary skill. The result is a book at once of absorbing interest, and of permanent value as a standard authority upon all subjects connected with the settlement of Canada.

The memory of the past was already fading from the minds of men when the Doctor thus rescued from oblivion the story of the early days of colonization. The names of many of the "Conscript Fathers" of Canada are here recorded, together with their keen sufferings and patient endurance under trial and privation. It is peculiarly fitting that one of their descendants should twine the laurel and wreath the bay to lay upon their tombs, and thus to keep their memories forever green in the hearts of their children. The reading of this book cannot fail to inspire an intelligent patriotism, and a deeper appreciation of our ancestry in the minds of the present generation.

The mere enumeration of a few of the topics which the author treats, will show the intrinsic excellence of the work. They are, among many others, Franco-Canadian History, the Revolutionary War, Traveling in Early Times—Original Routes, the U. E. Loyalists, Pioneer Life—its Privations and Make-shifts, the Progress of Education, the Government of Upper Canada, the Progress of Civilization, and of greatest interest of all to Methodist ministers, the Religious History of the Country, the Early Clergymen and Churches. No where else can such a thesaurus of information on the History of Canada, social and industrial, as well as political, be found.

Dr. Canniff, with his accustomed liberality, has given instructions to his publishers, A. Dredge & Co., Yonge Street, to make a large reduction in the price of this work to the ministers attending Conference. See advertisement. Call and examine it, and you will not fail to become its possessor.

None of that.—A captain, who had a sound-sleeping mate, caught an Irish boy in the middle watch frying some pork and eggs he had stolen from the ships' stores, to whom the captain called out:—"You lubber, you, I'll have none of that." "Faith, captain, I've none for you," replied the lad.

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