

light. Turn on another ; that is the Methodist light ; and another, it is the Baptist ; and another, it is the Anglican, or Episcopal ; another, it is the Disciple ; another, it is the Lutheran ; until you have made the grand round of those lights. Then turn them all on ablaze, and you have a picture before your very eyes of what it is for Sunday School workers of all churches to come together in Annual Convention, and then to carry the work on down into the county and township and state.

The third word that went forth was the word, *improve* the Sunday School. You know how it began its course. In Indianapolis, in 1872, there were about a thousand delegates ; and those delegates, after three or four days of session decided, ten persons dissenting, that they would start the present uniform lesson system. It was chaos before that time.

What marvellous progress there has been made in the improvement of the modern Sunday School ! Why, I stood in old London, in the British Museum, and I looked for a long time, with my heart filled, at the Moabite Stone and the inscription deciphered beneath it. Then, when I came home, I picked up a little boy's leaf he had left behind him in a pew in the School, and upon it was a beautiful picture of the Moabite Stone, and beneath the inscription, made plain to his mind, and when he could read he would understand it. And so we have all the genius in Bible study at work for us.

Then the next command that went forth was to enlarge the Sunday School. You know how we have been trying to enlarge it. We are in the very midst of that epoch of Sunday School history. Was there ever a dream of a Cradle Roll in the Sunday Schools of fifty years ago ? In the City of Albany I was in a school, and I saw ninety little children ; I believe that is the largest cradle roll in the United States ; it was only a town of five or six thousand inhabitants, and they were on their good behavior. I know a hard drinking fellow who wasted his substance in drink, and one day there came a visitor from the Cradle Roll Department to his home, just an hour after little baby had begun to breathe its life upon the mother's breast, and the Cradle Roll visitor asked the privilege of taking that little child's name, and leaving a little card behind ; and when the husband came home at noon he looked at the little card and said, " Mary, what does this mean ? " She said, " It means our little baby is a member of the Sunday School. " And that husband went away, and that afternoon he sought not the haunts of iniquity ; he began to think if the Sunday School is so careful for the little baby but an hour born, and I, the husband and father of other children in that home, have done so little for them, and have wasted my living, ought not I to begin to think of my own children ? That father is a Christian man and a Sunday School teacher.

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