

near to each other as it is possible to do. Now, there is one way to do that, only one infallible way, and that is that we should all get nearer to our common centre, all get nearer to Christ; so we emphasize at the outset of these gatherings the importance of spending the first half-hour in coming near to our blessed Saviour and to one another in these exercises of praise and prayer. We shall, before entering upon the duties proper of this Convention, sing another hymn, and have another brief season of prayer.

Hymn 148 was then sung, and the Convention was led in prayer by several of the delegates.

Mr. PEAKE—Now, after we have sung two verses of our "Work song," hymn 782, we shall proceed with the special work which has brought us together this afternoon.

Two verses of hymn 782 were then sung.

Mr. PEAKE—We find ourselves together, friends, to-day, under most favorable auspices. I do not think, in the course of my Sunday School Convention experience, that it has been my pleasure to look upon the faces of so many delegates at the first session of a Convention. I am sure it is a very pleasing thought to those who have been instrumental in making the necessary preparations that such is the case. I look around me and see the faces of veterans; I see faces that have been familiar in Sunday School Conventions for many, many years; I see, also, the faces of those who are young in the service, those who are just growing up to take the places of those who are older, and that is a cause for rejoicing to us, that, although the older ones pass away, the younger ones are coming up in greater number than the old ones even, so that we can take courage in this thought that, while God buries His workmen, he carries on His work. We have not had cause during the past year to mourn the removal of many of our leading workers in this department. One of our Vice-Presidents has passed away—a gentleman who took a leading part and was very actively interested in the work of our Sunday Schools. I refer to our late ex-President, Mr. D. C. McHenry, of Oobourg, who died during last summer. God has been thus very good to us. We have, as you will see by the programme, mapped out work which, if carried out—as we trust it will be to the letter—will tax the thought, the energy and the resources of this Convention. We have subjects for discussion which are live, practical subjects. We have men to discuss them who are live, practical men, active men, men who are accustomed to tackle subjects of this sort, and who will be found at their post, we trust, in every case. We have no reason to doubt this. We begin with the discussion of a subject which has troubled very many. Many Sunday School workers have been led to doubt the propriety of so many lesson helps. We have heard it, you know, on so many hands. It is quite a chronic complaint in our Sunday School Conventions that the lesson helps are driving out from the Sunday School the Word of God itself. Now,