

which has been extended to us, and for the promise we have that our sojourn here will be one of profit not only to you but to us also. I am advised, Mr. President, that the subject of Sunday-School Conventions is one of recent origin in Canada. In the States of the Union they have become established institutions. There underlies these Conventions a growing sense of the deficiencies of those who are engaged in the Sunday-School work, and hence they are drawn together to take counsel one with another, and learn improved methods of teaching, and thus the better to qualify themselves for the work which they more than ever realize to be great indeed. The Sunday-School cause has been blessed in the past. Its history is replete with interest and instruction. Sunday-Schools should from this time forward take a higher standard of excellence. The Sunday-School teacher—even the best qualified of them—comes lamentably short of the high standard which should be attained. But we may look to these gatherings of Sunday-School teachers, increasing in frequency and interest, as the means under God which shall raise this cause to that high standard which we all wish to see attained, and bring under the influence of the Sunday-School the great mass of the young everywhere. The Sunday-School should not only be improved, but it should be extended. There are large masses beyond the reach of all the influences of this blessed Sabbath instruction. The time must come—nay, I believe the time is near at hand—when it will be said, “This is the era of Sunday-School movements,”—the reaching out to those who are beyond the pale of all religious instruction, the bringing of them in the morning of life to be interested in the great subject of religion, instructing them in the oracles of God, and leading them in the right way. The improvement of Sunday-Schools and the extension of their influence to all should be the subject towards which our minds should be directed. It is this idea that has brought so many from the States to take part with you in this Convention. We are here, Sir, because in the Conventions which have been held in our own country, we have enjoyed the valuable counsel and aid of brethren from Canada. We come, too, I should be frank to say, because we feel our deficiencies and wish to gather up and carry home whatever we may hear that will aid us in our future work. We live under different governments, each of which may have its excellencies and its defects, but blessed be God we are one in this cause. (Cheers). If you have a thought or a plan that will aid us in bringing souls to Christ, you will give it to us as freely as we shall freely accept it and take it home with us, and I hope that no custom-house regulations will be in the way, (Applause), that no patent or copy-right laws shall hinder our carrying home whatever good we may find in Canada, or, as I should say, the Province of Ontario. Is it the influence of example, or what is it that has led you over here to find a new name? Is it the spirit of change which is so proverbial with the Yankee? (Laughter). Whatever it may be, be it yours to honor the name you have taken, and you can in no way better honor it than in raising higher the standard of your Sunday Schools. (Cheers). I thank you, Mr. President, and ladies and gentlemen, for the opportunity of expressing to you my satisfaction with meeting you on this occasion. I trust that in the progress of these meetings we shall all be interested and benefited, and that the Great Master whom we serve will pour out his blessings upon us and upon those who aid us in the Sunday School work everywhere. (Cheers).

The Hymn—“Blest be the tie that binds,” was sung by the Convention, after which Prof. Seager, of Chicago, sang—“Brother you may work for Jesus.”

THE PRESIDENT said he was glad to be able to introduce to them one who had had much practical experience in Sabbath School work—Ralph Wells, Esq., of New York. (Cheers). He had gone down among the lowest of New York Society, established Sabbath Schools amongst them, and had been the means of bringing many of the children to Christ.