

Communications.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

Although our neighbours "across the line" have had more to do with Conventions of all sorts than we, yet our Readers must not look upon a *Sabbath School* Convention as purely a "Yankee Notion." Years ago London had a "World's Sabbath School Convention." Sabbath School gatherings partaking of the character of a Normal Institution have, for long, been common in England. Canada moved in the same direction almost simultaneously with our Republican Brethren—and it is but the other day that a most stirring and successful Irish Sabbath School Convention came off at Belfast, in which some of the leading spirits of the Irish Presbyterian Church bore a prominent part. The first Provincial Sabbath school Convention was held in Kingston in Feb. 1837. The first Convention of the State of New York was the month previous—but while our American friends have made it a standing Institution, which each successive year has increased in interest and swelled in bulk, till Syracuse witnessed in August last a mammoth assembly of 2,700 delegates, trebling the meeting of 1864, we slow-going Provincials have permitted over eight years to intervene, before attempting a repetition of the successful experiment of 1857. But the second Provincial Convention recently held in Hamilton, has been of such a kind, that there is no danger of such an interval again occurring. The preparations were crowded into a very short space. But such was the zeal of the few faithful friends who projected the movement, and the energy and enthusiasm of the local Committee who carried it out, that within five weeks everything was completed, and their disinterested efforts were rewarded by one of the most successful religious gatherings ever held in the Province.

Though the weather was intensely hot, with seeding time commenced among the farmers, and the Merchants on the eve of their Fall Trade, some *Six Hundred* Delegates flocked from all parts of the Province, and for nearly three days, were engaged in Conferences which have left a sweet fragrance behind, and scattered seeds whose fruit will be found many days hence. In such a large body thrown thus suddenly together, comprising so many denominations and such diversified habits of thought and feeling, with questions coming up for discussion, more or less complicated, and affording room for discussion, it would not have been surprising had occasionally the hoarse accents of strife grated on the ear, but, during these three days, which foreshadowed to many the prophetic picture of the "Days of Heaven upon Earth" not one jarring note was struck.

The Convention would not have been in vain had it served only to bring out on a larger scale than heretofore, the essential oneness of the Evangelical Protestantism of Canada, and to secure on the part of those holding the great fundamental principles in common, a more correct and practical endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. It had all the elements of an Evangelical Alliance, with a definiteness of purpose to which that of the Old World has scarcely yet attained.

There was much too in the Convention of the "iron sharpening iron." The public conferences and private communings.—The fervent prayers and faithful appeals gave an impulse to many and sent them home to their respective fields of labor, with their views of the moral dignity of the Sabbath school expanded, and their impressions of individual responsibilities in connection with it, intensified. Any who might have come without an adequate appreciation of the importance of work, were made to feel the solemn emphasis of the warning, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones"—and to catch the