

EVENING SESSION.

After a praise service, the proceedings opened at eight.

REASONS WHY ALL SHOULD ENGAGE IN SABBATH-SCHOOL WORK.

Rev. JOHN F. GERMAN, M.A., Brampton, referred with pleasure to the great prominence given to children in this age. It is a living question in the Church, the family, the legislature, What can we do for the children. To-day all classes avail themselves of the privileges of Sabbath schools. The primary aim of the school is not to get numbers, not to keep the children for an hour from evil, nor to get them to recite God's Word, nor even to teach them God's truth, but to lead them to Christ; and if we fail in this we fail in our object. One reason why we should all engage in this work is that God has commended it; another, the benefit to the teachers; another, the patriotic motive—the benefit to the country. I confine myself to the points relating to the children. They come into the world helpless, with tendency to evil. They are compelled to make choice of good and evil, and their happiness here as well as hereafter depends on their choice. They cannot go out of the world without being suicides, and no one can put them out without being a murderer. If children were left alone in this world the case would not be so urgent; but literature is sent abroad and the child is taught profane swearing, impurity, drinking liquor. Put an English child in a Japanese family and he will speak Japanese—he will learn what he is taught. If a child commits crime we lock him up; if he dies we bury him; but if he lives and follows in the line of evil society we try him and condemn him. Had we prayed for and tended him before we might have saved him from this result. The same persons who teach the evil do not punish, but society as a whole teaches him evil and then punishes him. A child has a right to a true start in life, physically, mentally and spiritually. If we care for their bodies well and leave money to clothe them after we have gone, but provide not for their moral natures, how can we say at the bar of God that we have done what we could. Again, we should engage in this work because of what children may become. We should rejoice over the salvation of boys more than that of old men, for there may be ten times the influence in the future life of the boy that there will be in that of the aged person. The child's feet are small, but they may carry him to the penitentiary or the parliament; his vision is limited to-day, but the day is coming when he may study planets in their courses. He may rise to a position higher than angels, or sink into the depths of degradation with devils. You can hold a dozen acorns in your hand, but let them grow and one oak tree could crush the whole of us. Again,