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Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1905.

The Sunday School Convention and
the Lesson Division.

Unquestionably the greatest gathering in the history of this organization was the recent convention in Toronto of what is henceforth to be known as the International Sunday School Association. At the Denver Convention there were 1,168 delegates; at Toronto the delegation reached well up to the 2,000 mark. It was a great convention, animated by a great spirit, and laying great gifts upon the altar. After listening to the splendid and inspiring lectures at the Field Workers' Convention, during the three days that preceded the larger gathering, some of us were left wondering if there could possibly be anything better to follow.

The most marked feature of the convention was its deeply spiritual atmosphere. What was known as the quiet half-hour at noon meant something

deeper than words can express to those who shared its benediction.

The consecration service, led by the Rev. Dr. Tomkins, of Philadelphia, at the opening of the convention, was alone worth a far journey. We would that all our teachers could have enjoyed that uplift, but beloved fellow-workers we were with you in spirit, though you could not come to us.

Every year greater stress is being laid on the work of the Sunday School teacher. The Church of God has no higher post of honor to which to call the Christian worker.

"All the Church in the Sunday School, and all the Sunday School in the Church, let that be our motto," said one of the speakers.

"The work of the Sunday School is evangelistic rather than educational."

"The danger of modern times is not that our youth shall not be smart, but that they shall not be good."

"The work of the teacher is character building."

"The teacher must hold up a living Bible."

"One million five hundred thousand trained Sunday School teachers, let that be our aim for North America."

These are a few echoes from platform and pulpit.

Great stress was laid upon the need of systematic training and equipment for our teachers, but above all, on the need of going often into the quiet place with God.

Undoubtedly the most important question before this convention was that of the division of the uniform lessons system. It was a generous concession on the part of the convention to grant to the minority the supplemental course of lessons as requested. Though those desiring such a course are in the minority, they are, in the words of Dr. Potts, "an aggressive minority," and it is well that none should be held back from what they believe to be the highest interests of the work.

But let it be remembered this course of supplemental lessons is optional, not obligatory. It will not be forced on any school; and we sincerely believe that before any school divides its lessons it will do well to heed the warning of Bishop Vincent, that such a move is "going back to where we were thirty years ago."

The uniform lesson has been a bond of union throughout the English-speak-

ing world, home as well as father and grandparen be studying, tot in the where par course, it interest in We believe ages and cl Moreover, will multip teachers, reserve teach who will b lessons. T among them teen, who v same lesson elders are t It is well freedom in t workmen diff theless, we h do well to lesson system has succeeded well to hesita new thing. "Let those schools adva field and teach

It has been Bible is as m in the past go also that in s of Biblical ins have it stamp through early wholly unknow present age. truth in this.

Fifty years a expected to rea Book before ret the family or been formal, and in some cases, and in most bo years. How ma the soul to a mother's prayer, phere of reverer young went fo guard against t