

student of the Word of God, I had three admonitions to put before you. I will put these three. First of all, study the Bible without helps. Let the Bible speak for itself. It is the best commentary upon itself. I admire the Scottish humor and wisdom of that good lady who said that she very much had fallen in love with her new purchase—a commentary. Why? Because the Bible shed so much light upon it. (Laughter.) You study the Bible for yourself. It may be but a weak kind of study, as contrasted with the more splendid light that burns about you with ever kindly helpfulness; but it is the best for you to study the Bible for your own self and skill. Bend over it. Think upon it. Read the lesson of next Sunday. Appeal to your own consciousness, to your own Christian experience, compare Scripture with Scripture—(hear, hear),—search the Scriptures and you shall find what you are looking for. And then, after you have studied the Bible without helps, study it with helps. Call in Schaffler; press the button; let Aladdin bring his lamp; let Broadus, and Jacob, and Vincent, and Hall, and all come; let the great geni of Bible study of the nineteenth century stand before you. They will do it for a penny. They will give you the finest study of the nineteenth century. They will bring the British museum and open it at your feet. They will show you the old stones, and the sculpture, and the paintings of past time, unearthed that they might confirm truth and Scripture to-day. But study first the Bible without these helps. Get your own personal and original conviction of the truth of God's word. Honor that Bible in its simple Anglo-Saxon text better than anything else. Then, when you have done that, use these other lights, these helps; use them, and don't abuse them. And then again: Study the lesson in conjunction with others. I do beseech you, brethren and sisters of the Sabbath School Association of Ontario, that you rekindle the fires of the teachers' meeting—(hear, hear),—that you make them the fires of the vestal virgin that, once lighted, shall never go out. Have teachers' meetings all over this province. It should be an introduction—a helping-stone—to the Normal work when it shall come along. It will be the steel-laid track on which your Normal department will run—a good teachers' meeting in every community in Ontario. Then thirdly: Our theme involves the consideration, for a moment at least, of the first word, *better* Bible study—some methods of Bible study. I am not much given to methods. I am more given to principles than methods. A good principle is father and mother to a hundred methods. (Hear, hear.) Any teacher who comes to this convention and takes home bodily anybody's method is doing an unwise thing. Be eclectic, combine, adapt, formulate methods for yourself. Better than all, get one single principle that underlies Bible study and Bible teaching, and out of it will come a progeny of methods. I want to put before you four or five old, well-known, old-fashioned, cardinal prin-