

Sabbath School-Institutes have arisen as the next step in advance. In these the practice assimilates itself to Normal School teaching. A course of study is marked out and followed by the Conductor or Conductors of the Institute, in which the teachers present are trained in the principles and practice of Sabbath School teaching. By holding local Institutes, at times to suit the convenience of teachers, much good may be done in this way. Sometimes a succession of evenings may be devoted to the holding of an Institute, so that many whose other duties render it impossible for them to give whole days to attendance, may yet be able to reap the benefit.

SABBATH SCHOOL NORMAL COLLEGE.

The Institute is not the last step of progress; the wish is rising for something more definite and permanent. We hail with joy the call of the recent New York State Convention to their sister States and the Dominion of Canada to join in founding an International Sabbath School Normal College for the training of teachers. The value and importance of Sabbath School teaching is thus becoming better appreciated, and the necessity of higher training is becoming more felt. We trust the time is not very far distant, when not one only, but several such institutions shall exist for the better preparation of teachers for their work. We hope also soon to see the Christian Church so awakened to a sense of the true value of the Sabbath School, that a thorough training on this subject with an ability to guide others in this work will be required as a necessary part of the educational training of the Christian minister, and the preparation for his pastoral duties.

To attain the full benefit of a Sabbath School Convention, it is necessary to carry out into practice the knowledge there acquired. Let all then who attend, pastors, superintendents and teachers, before the kindled zeal becomes cold or the truths acquired are forgotten, go vigorously to work to obtain a practical result. Bring everything to a practical use; let improvements be introduced and patiently followed up, and we may rest assured that the result will be to the honour of God and the saving of souls by means of feeding the Saviour's lambs.

NOTE.—The writer of the above Essay considered himself bound to keep to the title named in the printed circular, and therefore to allude to Sabbath School Institutes only incidentally. Had the title been "Sabbath School Conventions, and Institutes, &c," the essay, by treating more fully on Institutes, might have been more useful and more fully up to the present standing of the Sabbath School enterprise. Much of what is written above will, however, apply to Institutes as well as Conventions.