

Committee's financial work. This year we have received more money than ever before and with less anxiety or labour. We have now a balance on hand. We had a most profitable conference on the Queen's birthday in Hamilton. We had about sixty delegates, representing about five or six associations; practical subjects were discussed and much interest was evinced. The idea of utilizing this holiday in this most profitable way emanated from the Hamilton Association, and I can confidently recommend from the experience of this one the same idea to the delegates of this Convention. In the early part of the year, Mr. Maclean, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Maritime Provinces, requested my services down here, and in accordance therewith I wended my way to these Provinces. I spent about five weeks and visited during that time about thirteen Associations. I found the associations, on the whole, in a very healthy condition; many places I was much cheered by the energy and enthusiasm which I saw displayed. I was impressed too with the deep religious sentiment which seemed to pervade the whole country, and went back feeling grateful that I was permitted to assist such a warm hearted and Christian people as there are in Moncton, Pictou and Springhill. I think, dear Maritime delegates, you have every reason to thank God for the success which has attended your labors, and for the many Associations which exist in your Provinces; and I have no doubt at all that if you get a man who will give his whole and undivided attention to this work, your Associations will become more numerous and stronger and more influential. The work of preparing the circulars of this Convention and sending them off devolved principally upon me, and I have been very busy indeed for some weeks back in prosecuting this part of my work.

Now, I wish to speak upon a subject which is very dear to my heart, and which I feel I must speak upon. Wherever I go I am confronted with one gigantic foe, and that is Intemperance. I am glad to say that many of our Associations in the West are growing in power and influence. From what I have seen and heard I am convinced of this, and instead of being in the least discouraged by the difficulties which we have to contend with and which are evidently becoming stronger and more numerous, I am encouraged to believe that a great future lies before us, and that we have and will do a great and glorious work by the grace of God and serving Jesus Christ. We are treading the verge of a wonderful age; mighty foes heave and toss society; mighty activities are at work, both for good and evil; it is the war of centuries between truth and falsehood, holiness and sin, good and evil, God and the devil. This conflict deepens, and we are, by the grace of God, in the midst of it.