

THE PROVINCIAL SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

We did not notice the call for the Convention of Sabbath School Teachers, to be held in Hamilton in the first week of September, for it had not appeared when our August number went to press, and any reference to it in September would have been too late. But our readers know that any movement to benefit Sabbath Schools always has the hearty sympathy of the *Canadian Independent*, and the more when it also furnishes a practical occasion for the cultivation of Christian Union.

The Convention was, in every sense, "a great success:"—as to numbers, the attendance being 600 or 700; as to catholicity, every evangelical denomination being represented, and the whole proceedings being perfectly harmonious; and as to practical value, so much light being thrown upon so many points in the work of these nurseries for the church. It was a thrilling sight, to one who loved his country and the Redeemer's cause, to witness such an assemblage of enlightened and earnest men, devoting themselves so enthusiastically to the acquisition of the highest skill in this voluntary service to Christ and His "little ones." There were among them men whose heads had grown grey in this work, others in the prime of manly vigour, and others consecrating the dew of their youth. The pastors, the officers, and the members of the various churches, were all represented. The villages, the cities and the country, shewed equal interest in the cause.

The impulse imparted to every labourer, even the remotest and loneliest, by such a gathering, is alone worth all the trouble of holding it; but besides this, a great fund of detailed instruction was imparted, especially by the American visitors, Messrs. Woodruff and Pardee, and Revs. C. W. Bolton, and B. W. Chidlaw, Mr. Pardee being the chief speaker in the deliberative meetings.

If we were to attempt to give a minute account of the proceedings, we should need to occupy a double number of the magazine. But we are happy to be able to refer our readers to the speedily forthcoming official Report, which will be chiefly owing—"honour to whom honour is due"—to the photographic skill of our brother, Rev. E. Barker. For 12½ cents, any one can obtain a copy from Messrs. T. & R. White, *Spectator* Office, Hamilton. Orders should be sent in promptly with the money. It will surely be easy to obtain subscribers for a dollar's worth everywhere. The value of a bushel of wheat could scarcely be put to a better purpose than the purchase of copies for free distribution.

It was a high gratification to find that the Prize (\$20) for the best Essay on the Management of Sabbath Schools, was awarded, with emphatic preference, out of twenty-two competitors, to Rev. John Wood of Brantford. It is published by the same house at one penny per copy, and \$1 per 100.

The next Convention is to be held in Montreal, during the first week of September, 1866, and as the Teachers present in Hamilton organized themselves into an *Association*, it may be expected that similar meetings will be held at different points, at longer or shorter intervals. We earnestly recommend our friends to throw themselves heartily into the plan of holding County Conventions, and should any of them be honoured by appointments as County Secretaries, they can do a good service by accepting them.

Rev. Dr. Ormiston is the President, and Rev. W. Millard, Toronto, General Secretary, of the "Sabbath School Association of Canada."