

Mr. Wells is engaged in the Life Assurance business in New York, but devotes a large share of his time to visiting Sunday School Conventions and Institutes, for which he is in great request, from every part of the Continent. His own school, in one of the worst parts of New York, a nest of Fenians, was partially described in certain "Holiday Notes" in the September number of this magazine (pp. 113, 114). We trust that we may see him again at many a Canadian Convention.

Mr. Wells was followed on Tuesday by Dr. R. F. Burns, in a very effective address. The proceedings of this service, as of all which followed it, were varied and enlivened by the skillful musical performances of Mr. Seager, who took the place of Mr. Philip Phillips, unable to attend. By an appropriate solo, now and then, followed oftentimes by a chorus in which the whole Convention was taught to join, the thought or sentiment of the hour was sung into the hearts of the company.

The half-hour prayer meetings, 9 to 9 30 A. M., on Wednesday and Thursday were led by Mr. Wells. They were seasons of hallowed spiritual influence. "Surely the Lord was in that place." On Wednesday morning, Rev. W. Millard, General Secretary, presented his Annual Report, in which after an encouraging review of the Sabbath School cause in Europe and America, special reference was made to the employment of a S. S. Missionary in the newer settlements of Ontario. By the free contributions of 115 schools, in sums from 30c. to \$24 38, \$342 54 had been collected; and Rev. J. McKillican, agent of the Canada S. S. Union at Montreal, had been allowed by that Society to labour for four months under the direction of the Association; he had been appointed to the counties of Simcoe and Grey, and had founded a number of new schools, making them grants of books where needful. Mr. McKillican's labours had been arduous, but the results were very hopeful. In relation to statistics, the report complained of the difficulty of getting returns. Some figures had been obtained from 40 counties out of 50, and the number of schools so reported was 1236, with 10,000 teachers, and 90,000 scholars. [At a subsequent meeting, Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education, stated that in the returns made to his office, there were reported for Ontario, 4,379 common schools, and he was satisfied that the Sunday Schools were more numerous.]

The judges of the Prize Essays reported that ten compositions had been received, and that they had awarded the first premium (\$50) to one with the motto, "Feed my lambs," and the second (\$25) to one with that of "Canadensis." The sealed envelopes being handed to the Chairman, in the open Convention, were found to contain the names of (1) Rev. George Bell and (2) Rev. John Wood.

The County Secretaries also gave in three minute verbal reports on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Wells, at 3 o'clock, gave a specimen of the manner in which the Blackboard could be employed with great effect in Sunday School teaching. For the particulars of this remarkable exercise, however, which was heard and seen with the deepest interest by the Convention, we must refer our readers to the forthcoming full report.

Subject 11, on the list in the circular, "The great End of S. S. Teaching," was introduced by Rev. Dr. Ormiston, and afterwards spoken to by several members in five-minute speeches. We need hardly say that the object to be had in view was held to be the early conversion of children, but the remarks made were fitted deepen to the conviction of the attainability of that result.

On Wednesday evening, the church was crowded to suffocation. It was said that another building might have been filled with those who went away. Mr. Wells gave a Model Infant Class Lesson to some 30 children whom he had not seen before. The subject was the Passover, and, by the help of the blackboard, was most graphically set before the juvenile pupils, who became so absorbed in the lesson as seemingly to forget the presence of the vast congregation. The lesson must have given to those present new ideas of the possibilities of Sunday School teaching; although to many it seemed so far above their own methods as to be out of sight. Addresses by Mr. Frankland, Professor Wilson, Mr. Dale of Illinois, Mr. S. B. Johnson, Bible Agent, (who was commissioned to promise