

Those who met here some sixteen years ago, in the Annual Convention, will perhaps be able to carry their minds back to the circumstances surrounding that gathering. I believe—for I was not present—that the gentleman who was President at that gathering, was my friend, Mr. Daniel McLean, of Toronto; he is not with us here in the body, but I am sure he is with us in spirit. I find that the President elected at that Convention was your townsman, His Honor Judge Jones.

I think that God has been especially good to this Association, in sparing so many of the workers that have been connected with it since the beginning; I think that of all the Presidents that have been elected to this high office during the last twenty-five years all are living, with the exception of two; the rest of them are all spared to us, the most of them yet in active work, and I think that this is great cause for gratitude, and ought to make us feel that God is not only carrying on His work, but is good to His workers, in preserving their lives. There were at that time present, Rev. Wm. Millard, the then General Secretary; the late Hon. John McMurrich, Treasurer, whose son is in active work with us to-day; also Rev. Dr. Black, of Inverness, Scotland, whose addresses will ever live in our hearts; and another gentleman, whom many of us have had the pleasure of listening to, and hope many times to have that pleasure again—I refer to Mr. Wm. Reynolds, of Illinois; and I also see the names of Rev. Dr. O'Meara, of Port Hope, and Dr. Castle, both of whom have since passed to their reward.

Now, we are here to-day for an object, and let me ask what that object is. Have we come together for the sake of listening to those who have come to speak to us, and then, after hearing their eloquent words, to return—like the door on its hinges, forever swinging backward and forward, but still in the same place—or shall we go home, carrying with us the enthusiasm that we obtain here, and determined to put in practice what we have here learned? Then, if this be our object, and such the result, this Convention cannot fail to be a blessing, not only to ourselves, but to the whole Province.

Now, there is only one way whereby this result can be obtained; and that is for you and me, each one of us, to do his or her share towards it; this Convention is made up of individuals—individuals must do the work, and individuals will receive the blessing; let us remember, each one of us, that we are directly responsible for the results of this Convention—that it is very largely in our power, to make it a success. There are those who have done what they could, to make it a success in arranging the programme, and it remains for us to take what is said, to ourselves, and to see that we are in a position to benefit those with whom we shall come in contact when we return home.

I do not intend to take up your time at any great length. I thank God that I am here to-day; I thank Him that you are here;

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