

the Lord." But he would not anticipate the address of the Rev. Mr. Topp, who had been chosen to greet the delegates on behalf of his Toronto fellow Christians.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME, AND REPLIES.

REV. ALEXANDER TOPP, of Toronto, then addressed the Convention as follows:

*Mr. Chairman:*—It is but right, and what common courtesy demands, when we meet a friend who has come a long distance to see us, to extend the hand of friendship and cordially invite him to our house and our home. And if that is the natural prompting of the heart between private friends, even so it is when those who are united by the strongest bonds, even the bonds of a common faith in Jesus Christ, are visited by others who are animated with the same spirit, and who come in the interest of the same great and glorious cause—that cause which is destined to prevail and fill the whole earth. I feel persuaded, therefore, that I give expression to the sentiments and feelings not only of Christian friends in this assembly but of Christian people throughout the city, when I say that we are right glad to see so many of the various denominations of Christians who are warmly and earnestly seeking to obey the command of our great Head and Lord, "Feed my lambs," assembled together in this city, and that we cordially extend a welcome to all the members of this Convention. The friends of truth in this city not only hail your visit as a visit of brethren in Christ, but as an evidence of the deep and growing interest that is felt in the Sabbath-School cause, and the anxiety of all who are embarked in this great work to do what they can, with the Divine blessing, to render it more interesting, more comprehensive and more effective. Our lot, sir, is cast in very extraordinary times. There is much of unsettledness, even of error and infidelity abroad, and I do not know anything of more importance to the future of the Church than that the young should be imbued with right principles and indoctrinated with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I think it was John Newton who said, "If we would keep out the chaff we must have the sack full of good grain." Even so, if we would keep the young from error we must imbue them with the truth of God. I do earnestly trust that the results of this convention will be to stir up our hearts to greater earnestness in this good cause. For I am sure we are all met together this evening with the conviction that "except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh in vain."

But, sir, in offering our congratulation and welcome to the delegates and members of this convention who are our fellow subjects in these Provinces, I rejoice in being permitted in the name of this assembly, and of the Christian friends of this city, to extend the same cordial greeting to our brethren from across the lines who have honored us, and who may yet honor us, with their presence. (Applause). And this for several reasons: 1. The Christian people of the United States have devoted their attention and their energies very largely to the cause of Sabbath Schools. Indeed, the Sabbath School there is one of the most prominent organizations in connection with the Christian Church; and for some of the most interesting, most admirable and useful treatises in regard to the working of Sabbath Schools, and the religious instruction and care of the young generally, we are indebted to the American mind. 2. We cordially welcome them because we hope to be largely benefited by the warm outpouring of their sentiments and their experience in regard to the various departments of Sabbath School work, and Sabbath School Conventions such as this. Whatever they do, they, for the most part, do warmly and fervently, and we do hope that whilst they may find something not to be despised or overlooked in Canada, their presence with us will be the means of stirring us up to greater earnestness and devotedness in the Sabbath School work. (Applause). 3. We are under great obligation to them for putting themselves to the inconvenience—great inconvenience in some cases—of coming to visit us on this occasion. And