

## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

*To Parents and Pastors, Superintendents and Teachers, and all  
Friends of Sabbath Schools.*

It has been laid upon us, by the Fourth Provincial Convention of Sabbath School Teachers, to address a few words to you, by way of introducing the following report of the proceedings of that body.

We desire to call your most earnest attention to the momentous work, which, in various forms, is the subject of consideration by every Sabbath School Convention, viz., the Religious Instruction of the Young, in order to their eternal salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ; and to enlist your most active exertions and earnest prayers in that behalf, as you have opportunity.

The bringing up of children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, is confided, first and chiefly, to their own parents. No system of Sabbath School instruction, however complete in its plan, or however skilfully wrought out, can relieve any father or mother of one jot or tittle of duty to their offspring. The most earnest workers in the Sabbath School continually insist upon this; they never profess or aim to supersede, but only to further, the training given in the family; in all our Conventions, this testimony is borne, year by year, with loud and united voice. The Family is older than the School, older than the Church itself,—rather, *was* the Church—"the Church in the House," for the many centuries of the Patriarchal Dispensation. And when, as in the case of a solitary settler in our own forests, the Church and the School cannot yet exist, the Family is there before them. When those follow, it is not to set aside the religion of the family, but to complete it. When most efficient, the School and the Church take care of the children but for an hour, or a few hours in the week; but parents have them in hand every day and all the day. The command in the Old Testament, (Deut. vi., 6-9,) one which has not "decayed and waxed old," nor "is ready to vanish away,"—"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up: and thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes: and thou shalt write them upon the posts of thine house and upon thy gates;"—and that in the New Testament, (Eph. vi., 4,) "And ye, fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;"—can *only* be fulfilled by parents in their own homes. It is often lamented by the best friends of the young, that the