

PAPERS, DISCUSSIONS,

AND

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

SECOND NATIONAL BAPTIST

Sunday-School Convention and Institute,

HELD WITH THE

NINTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH,

CINCINNATI, OHIO,

November 20th, 21st, and 22d, 1872,

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BIBLE AND PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

PHILADELPHIA:

BIBLE AND PUBLICATION SOCIETY, 530 ARCH STREET.

1873.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION.

THE SECOND NATIONAL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION AND INSTITUTE assembled in the meeting-house of the Ninth Street Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, on Wednesday, November 20, 1872, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Over the pulpit, in letters formed by jets of gas, was the sentence,

“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.”

Upon the front of the gallery, opposite the pulpit, was inscribed, in illuminated characters,

“A BIBLE-SCHOOL,—

THE CHURCH AT WORK STUDYING AND TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD.”

The Rev. S. TALBOT, D. D., of Ohio, President of the Bible and Publication Society, called the meeting to order, and announced the hymn,

“All hail the power of Jesus' name!”

The Convention was led in singing by W. H. DOANE, Esq., of Ohio.

The Rev. S. A. COLLINS, of Cincinnati, read the 19th Psalm, and the Rev. R. JEFFERY, D. D., of the same city, led in prayer.

JOHN H. CHEEVER, Esq., in behalf of the Cincinnati Baptist Church Union, welcomed the Convention in the following words:

Circumstances over which I have no control give me the pleasing duty of welcoming to the hospitalities of what has been, not inappropriately, called the “Queen City of the West,” this, the “Second National Baptist Sunday-School Convention.”

I accept the position assigned me with reluctance, and yet with some degree of confidence that you will overlook the medium through which these words of welcome come, while contemplating the heartiness and good will with which we offer you our hands and hearts.

When first we conferred together as to the feasibility of extending an invitation to so large and important a body of Christian workers to meet with us, some doubts were expressed as to our ability properly to care for so numerous a company; and comparisons were at once made between the munificent hospitality extended by our sister city three years ago (the sweet memories of which still linger with us) and that which we, in our feebleness, might be able to offer. Yet the more we reflected, in that same proportion our courage grew, until with one accord the resolve was made to extend a most hearty invitation, and do our best to make you feel welcome and comfortable while here.

Ever since, we have been encouraged and strengthened in our preparations by the growing interest manifested, not only among our own people, but also from words of cheer spoken by those of other denominations; and we can safely say that you are gladly welcomed by all who love our Lord Jesus Christ, by whatever distinctive name they are known.

This has ever been a city of conventions. Statesmen and politicians have here met to plan and consult as to the temporal welfare of the nation; scientists have come together here to compare views as to their new discoveries in the wonderful world in which we live; and philanthropists have convened here in the interests of humanity and social improvement. But I am confident that in all these none can exceed in their important results the Convention now about to be held under your auspices.

The subject of "Bible study" is, in our estimation, paramount to every other that can occupy the attention of man; and upon no other subject are the Christian workers of this city so heartily united as this. It is therefore with unusual interest we look to this three days' discussion by representative men of our denomination, so well fitted for the positions assigned them; and if, as we expect, you shall contribute while here to a better understanding of our duty, and by your words of counsel stimulate us to greater zeal in the Master's service, our pleasure will be greatly increased thereby.

In behalf, then, of the citizens of this place, we extend to you the freedom of our city, hoping you will find pleasure in visiting our manufactories, business houses, public buildings, and public institutions; that you will cross our beautiful suspension bridge, which spans the Ohio river, uniting us with our sister State, Kentucky, typical of that love to Christ which unites our hearts as the "heart of one man;"—that you will visit that monument of art and genius which adorns one of our public squares,—our city's pride, the munificent gift of one of our public-spirited citizens—where is constantly found the flowing stream, reminding us of that Fountain of Life, ever flowing, "freely flowing for you and for me;"—that you will ascend the Inclined Plane, which connects the valley with the mount, from which lofty height you can view the dwellings of thousands at your feet, many of whom are inclined to the paths of sin; for whom Christ died, and to whom we are striving to give the word of life;—that you will embrace any opportunity offered of viewing the suburbs by which we are surrounded, so blessed by nature and improved by cultivation as to be the envy of less favored cities; in a word, that you will feel at home in all the departments of our city's enterprise, being assured that the more intimately acquainted you become with our springs of prosperity, the more will you appreciate the welcome now extended.

Not only as citizens of a thriving city, however, do we bid you welcome, but in the closer and dearer relation as followers of one common Master, and still more intimate connection as believers in the more distinctive views of the great Baptist family, banded together for one common end, to spread abroad the gospel in its purity to all within our reach, united as we are in "one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism."

Our numbers here are small, and our history shows but little progress for the past twenty-five years; yet, believing that the past has shown to some extent our failures, and given us to see the mistakes made, we are now prepared, by the blessing of God and the new impulse this Convention will give us, to advance with more intelligent views of our duty, with more expedition, and with greater results.

In anticipation of your coming, union prayer meetings have been held from church to church, for several weeks past, with special reference to an outpouring of God's blessing upon the deliberations of this Convention, upon those who participate in its exercises, upon those who gather to hear these words of instruction, as well as upon all our souls.

In these union services our hearts have been warmed to unusual fervor, and to-day witnesses a greater unity of action in Christian work than has characterized us for many years past, for which all praise is due to him who overrules and guides the ways of all his creatures.

The Baptists of Cincinnati expect much from this Convention in every way, and in nothing so much as in imparting a greater love for the study of the Bible, and a stronger desire to work with more assiduity and more successfully in spreading its benign influence over the thousands in our midst who do not realize its value.

We have but little to give in return for what you bring, except our prayers and cordial welcome. Believe me when I say we are glad you have come. Thrice welcome to our city, our churches, and our homes.

"Welcome, brothers, from the woodland;
From the cities by the sea;
From the heaven-kissing mountains;
Here we meet in unity.

"Welcome, brothers; bonds fraternal
Make our hearts responsive beat;
Giving strength to aid the erring,
Rendering communion sweet.

"Welcome, brothers; strong in council,
May we prove in virtue brave;
Brave to aid the broken-hearted;
Strong to comfort and to save."

May your stay be agreeable and pleasant, and your departure leave behind blessed memories which shall last through all eternity.

The Convention rose and sang:

"Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love."

REV. DR. TALBOT, in response to the address of welcome, said:

I am sure that this Convention will unite with me in responding to these hearty words of welcome, and in assuring you and those whom you represent of our great pleasure in finding ourselves in the "Queen City of the West;" a city distinguished not more for its commerce, and art, and conventions, than for its earnest workers in the cause of the Sunday-school, both in speech and in song, and for the moral welfare and elevation of young men.

It is a grand spectacle which we are presenting here to-day—a Convention gathered from all portions of our country, from places widely separated; comprising men of the greatest learning and social influence; professors in our theological schools and colleges; editors, ministers, business men, Sunday-school superintendents, and Sunday-school workers—all assembled to consider the subject of the religious training of the children and youth in our brotherhood, and that come under our influence. I regard this Convention, sir, as significant of better promise for society and for the church in the future. It is significant of a church membership instructed in the knowledge of the word of God, and in habits of Christian benevolence. It is significant of a more complete organization of the forces which have been committed to us in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Every age, as well as every individual, has some leading idea, which gives shape to its thinking and its acting, and the leading idea of our time is organization—the gathering together and uniting in their proper relations of all the forces, material and spiritual, of the world. We see organization as manifested in society, especially in the society of city life, where every man and woman and child has a place and a work in harmony with the interests of the whole. We believe that there is in society a capacity for indefinite organization and increase of power and we want to see the same idea brought over into the Church of Jesus Christ.

In this word, "organization," we find included three ideas that are especially applicable to the Sunday-school—development, growth, and training; an unfolding of capacities before

latent; a constant increase of power by gradual accretion, and the disciplining and directing of this power to serve a definite end. We have not yet realized the idea of churches completely organized, where all the powers of the members are employed in co-ordination, working together for one end. We have the idea, assisted by the spectacle of social life in working up toward that idea, where the whole body fitly framed together, growing by that which every member supplies, shall make increase of itself. And this is the idea of church life and church work, toward which we should strive. I believe the time is coming, sir, when our churches will become, by their schools, more than they are; when the membership, from the most ancient to the little child, even all who are among us, will be gathered together for the study of the word of God, and for training in habits of practical Christian beneficence.

We look to the work of the Sunday-school to lay the foundations for this higher and completer organizing of the church life and the church work. We look to the Sunday-school as the beginning of that course of intelligent Christian instruction, and those wise habits of giving, which were early followed. When we have those who are instructed as they come into the church, through the grace of Christ, we shall have realized the words of the Psalmist, that "those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." They shall be ever flourishing, and bring forth fruit to old age. And I am reminded, sir, of the promised removal of the curse from the earth in the closing revelations of the Old Testament, by the turning of the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.

Again, sir, in behalf of the Bible and Publication Society, under whose auspices this Convention has been gathered, and in behalf of the Convention itself, I thank you and the Baptist Church Union of Cincinnati, whom you represent, for this cordial welcome.

On motion, the Chair appointed a Committee of five, consisting of GEO. F. DAVIS, of Ohio, L. K. FULLER, of Vermont, W. HOLME, of New York, J. W. JONES, of Virginia, and WARREN RANDOLPH, of Pennsylvania, to nominate permanent officers.

During the absence of the Committee, Rev. HENRY MOREHOUSE, Evangelist from England, was invited to address the assembly, which he did, speaking of "Christian Ambassadorship."

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

For President.

Rev. J. L. M. CURRY, D. D., LL. D., of Va.

For Vice Presidents.

H. THANE MILLER, Esq., of Ohio.
CLEMENT LEACH, Jr., Esq., of Ill.

For Secretaries.

GEO. M. VANDERLIP, of N. Y.
Rev. S. H. MIRICK, of D. C.

After the election of the above named as Officers of the Convention, at the request of Dr. TALBOT, Rev. A. J. F. BEHREND'S, of N. Y., and E. D. JONES, Esq., of Mo., conducted the President to the chair.

Dr. CURRY then said:

BRETHREN OF THE CONVENTION:—I am not insensible to, but I gratefully appreciate, the honor which has been conferred upon me by you in calling upon me to preside over this

Second National Baptist Convention. What little experience I have had in deliberative bodies has satisfied me that parliamentary rules, the result of hundreds of years of valuable experience, are necessary for the despatch of business, and the maintenance of order and decorum. Nothing so distinguishes the English speaking people as their cheerful submission to the self-imposed restrictions of parliamentary law. I therefore invoke, and shall certainly expect, your aid in the discharge of the duties of this position to which you have assigned me.

This Convention, my brethren, ought to be an era in the Baptist denomination. From this day, if I may use the expression, there ought to be a "new departure" for increased devotion to God's word, and for more thorough consecration to the Master. There should be forward-looking with every individual and every society. As an axiom, not to struggle upward to a higher life is to confess our own decadence, and write our own epitaph. There are imperative obligations resting upon us, and it behooves us, as a mighty host in this land, to meet all the responsibility growing out of our influence and our principles.

Christianity is the most gigantic agency of the world. Revelation is complete, and the forms and ordinances of Christianity are permanent; but a better understanding of the Scriptures, and of the providence of God, gives a wider scope to the great commission, and Christianity, amid the ever-varying circumstances and the progressive evolutions of the centuries, has a wonderful adaptive elasticity. These Sunday schools are modern Christian agencies, having the very spirit of the primitive churches, and for the increase and improvement of these Sunday schools this Convention, representing so many States, is in session to-day.

And now, that God may bless our coming together; that we may be enabled to glorify him in all our sayings and in all our doings; that we may search the Scriptures with more humility and earnestness and faith, so that from that search there may result development, growth, and training; that all bitterness and evil speaking and wrath and clamor may be kept away from us; and that while here we may dwell together in unity, and in the bond of peace, the Convention, following the lead of Brother BEHREND'S, of New York, will engage in prayer.

Rev. A. J. F. BEHREND'S then led the Convention in prayer.

On motion, the printed programme, prepared by the Committee of Arrangements, was adopted as the order of proceedings.

On motion of Dr. RANDOLPH, the President was requested to report at the opening of the afternoon session the names of five brethren as a Committee of Enrolment, and of fifteen as a Committee on Resolutions.

As arranged, the Rev. Dr. CURRY then delivered an Address on

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE ESSENTIAL TO THE STABILITY OF FREE INSTITUTIONS.

The Convention united in singing,

"Rescue the perishing,"

A communication from the Young Men's Christian Association was read, welcoming the Convention, and inviting members to visit its Rooms.

The invitation was accepted, and the Secretary directed to communicate the action to the Association.

After prayer by Rev. T. G. JONES, D. D., of Tenn., the Convention adjourned until 2.30, P. M.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

At 2.30, P. M., the Convention assembled. REV. DR. CURRY in the chair. The hymn, "Rock of Ages," was sung, and prayer offered by REV. F. A. DOUGLASS, of Ohio.

The Chair announced the following as Committee on Enrolment:

REV. G. J. JOHNSON, of Mo.	REV. T. W. SYDNOR, of Va.
" F. G. THEARLE, of Ill.	" F. D. BLAND, of Ohio.
REV. GEO. E. LEONARD, of Ind.	

And as Committee on Resolutions:

REV. H. F. COLBY, of Ohio.	REV. T. J. WALNE, of Miss.
" J. H. CASTLE, of Pa.	HON. W. S. WILCOX, of Mich.
" C. E. HEWITT, of Ill.	REV. M. H. BIXBY, of R. I.
" J. R. STONE, of Ind.	" P. S. HENSON, of Pa.
" W. H. FELIX, of Ky.	" D. T. MORRILL, of Mo.
" J. C. C. CLARK, of Ohio.	" W. A. NELSON, of Tenn.
" J. R. DOWNER, of Kan.	" J. G. HENSHALL, of Wis.
REV. J. B. HAWTHORNE, of Ky.	

REV. A. J. F. BEHREND, of New York, then addressed the Convention on

THE DUTY OF THE CHURCHES WITH REFERENCE TO BIBLE INSTRUCTION
WITHIN THEIR OWN CONGREGATIONS.

REV. A. A. KENDRICK, D. D., President of Shurtleff College, Ill., followed, speaking upon

THE DUTY OF THE CHURCHES WITH REFERENCE TO BIBLE INSTRUCTION
IN DESTITUTE REGIONS.

On motion, it was resolved, that in the discussion of papers presented to the Convention each speaker be limited to five minutes.

An animated discussion of the topics just presented then followed.

On motion of REV. DR. JEFFERY, of Ohio, visiting brethren present from our own or other denominations were cordially invited to seats in the Convention, and to take part in its deliberations.

The Doxology was sung, and the Convention adjourned at 5 o'clock, P. M., after prayer by REV. H. COLBY, of Ohio.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Opened at 7.30 with prayer by REV. S. TALBOT, D. D., of Ohio, and Rev. J. B. HAWTHORNE, of Ky. Singing, "Fresh from the throne of glory," and "Come thou Fount of every blessing."

REV. C. B. CRANE, D. D., of Hartford, Conn., then addressed the Convention, his subject being

TO WHAT EXTENT, AND BY WHAT METHODS, SHOULD WE PROSECUTE
ADULT BIBLE-SCHOOL WORK?

Singing "The Song of Thanksgiving."

President J. P. BOYCE, D. D., of S. C., continued the discussion.

Hymn, "Yes, a brighter morn is breaking."

Prof. ROBERT LOWRY, of the University at Lewisburg, Pa., followed, closing the discussion.

With the Doxology, and prayer by REV. J. H. CASTLE, D. D., of Pa., the Convention adjourned.

SECOND DAY,—Nov. 21.

The Convention assembled at 9.30 A. M. Vice President H. THANE MILLER in the chair. The Scriptures were read by REV. P. S. HENSON, D. D., of Pa., and prayer offered by REV. J. D. FULTON, D. D., of Mass. Devotional services continued until 10 o'clock, when the hymn, "More love, O Christ, to thee," was sung, and the chair taken by the President, DR. CURRY. The Minutes of the first day's proceedings were read and approved.

The order of the morning was the discussion of the topic,

MEANS FOR SECURING THE MOST EFFICIENT BIBLE TEACHERS.

Prof. G. D. B. PEPPER, D. D., of Crozer Theological Seminary, Upland, Pa., read an Essay on

NORMAL CLASSES.

Hymn,— "We praise Thee, O Lord, for the Son of Thy love."

B. F. JACOBS, Esq., of Ill., was appointed to speak at this stage of the meeting on

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

In his absence, the Convention called at once for the REV. GEORGE A. PELTZ, of Pa., who read a paper on

INSTITUTE EXERCISES.

On motion, it was voted that the last fifteen minutes of the present session be devoted to miscellaneous business.

A general discussion of the above topics ensued.

In the absence of REV. S. H. MIRICK, of D. C., REV. D. T. MORRILL, of Mo., was appointed Assistant Secretary.

Hymn, "The morning light is breaking," was sung, after which the discussion was continued.

By request, REV. L. B. FISH, of Ky., sung "Brother, you may work for Jesus."

On motion of REV. C. E. HEWETT, D. D., of Ill., it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Sunday-school Secretary of the Bible and Publication Society, REV. DR. RANDOLPH, respecting Blanks for Statistics for uniform use.

Chair appointed Dr. C. R. BLACKALL, of Ill., REV. S. W. MARSTON, D. D., of Mo., and REV. S. LANDRUM, D. D., of Tenn.

REV. DR. GRIFFITH, of Pa., asked leave to make a preliminary inquiry as to the desirability of printing Minutes of this Convention; stated probable cost; and would ask for a decision to-morrow.

After singing hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," and prayer by REV. B. MANLY, D. D., of Ky., Convention adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The Convention assembled at 2.30, CLEMENT LEACH, JR. of Ill., Vice President, in the Chair.

Hymn, "I love thy Kingdom, Lord."

Prayer by REV. J. E. CHESHIRE, of Pa., and REV. T. W. SYDNOR, D. D., of Va.

PROF. E. OLNEY of Mich., then addressed the Convention on

THE BEST METHODS OF BIBLE TEACHING.

After a brief discussion of PROF. OLNEY'S paper; REV. L. B. FISH, of Ky., by request sang: "Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."

REV. DR. RANDOLPH, in behalf of the Sunday-school Missionaries of the Bible and Publication Society, offered the following, which upon his motion was referred to the Committee on Resolutions:

Resolved, That in view of the manifest and increasing demand for a change to universal Bible study on the part of our churches, we recommend a change in the name used for our work, from "Sunday-school" to Bible-school Work.

The Convention then resolved itself into *Committee of the Whole*, E. D. JONES, Esq., of Mo., in the Chair. The Chairman called for short, sharp, and decisive "Speeches," to be limited to three minutes each. Interesting remarks followed from various members of the Convention, on

THE PLEASURES, DIFFICULTIES, METHODS AND WANTS OF OUR WORK.

The Committee rose, and the President, DR. CURRY, resumed the Chair. After prayer by MR. WILLIAM LAWRENCE of Ill., the Convention adjourned with benediction by REV. I. A. HOBBS, of Ohio.

THURSDAY EVENING.

Convention assembled at 7.30 for devotion, under leadership of REV. L. B. FISH, of Ky. At 8 o'clock President CURRY took the Chair. Hymn: "Nearer my God to thee."

Prayer by REV. DR. HELM, of Ky.

The topic for the Evening was announced:

THE DUTY OF BAPTIST CHURCHES TO THE CHILDREN—IN RELATION

- 1st. To Conversion.
- 2d. To Church Membership.
- 3d. To Christian Culture.

REV. R. JEFFERY, D. D., of Ohio, addressed Convention on this duty to the children *in relation to conversion*.

He was followed by REV. M. B. WHARTON, of Louisville, Ky., who spoke of receiving them into *Church Membership*.

DUET—By MISS J. GOULD and MISS HINKLE: "I am the Rose of Sharon."

REV. WAYLAND HOYT, of N. Y., closed the discussion, speaking upon the importance of attention to the *Christian Culture* of converted children.

The MISSES SAULT, of Ky. sang, "Lead me to Jesus."

The President, REV. DR. CURRY, expressed his regret that circumstances beyond his control would compel him to leave in the morning, and he should be deprived of the honor and privilege of presiding at the concluding meetings of the Convention.

The Doxology was sung, and the Benediction was pronounced by REV. J. D. FULTON, D. D., of Mass.

THIRD DAY,—Nov. 22.

At 9.30 A. M. devotional services were held, conducted by COLGATE HOYT, of Ohio, who read the Scriptures and offered prayer. Hymn, "My soul be on thy guard." Devotional exercises were continued until 10 o'clock, when Vice President, H. THANE MILLER, of Ohio, took the chair.

Hymn, "Shall we gather at the River," was sung, and the minutes of Thursday's proceedings were read and approved.

REV. WARREN RANDOLPH, D. D., Sunday-School Secretary of the Bible and Publication Society, presented a paper on

STATISTICS.

DR. C. R. BLACKALL, of Ill., followed with a paper on

ORGANIZATION.

By request, REV. L. B. FISH, of Ky., sang, "If I were a voice."

REV. DR. RANDOLPH, of Pa., from the Committee to prepare Blanks for Statistics for uniform use, presented a report, which was considered and amended, when on motion the matter was again referred to the Committee, enlarged by the addition of E. D. JONES, of Mo., J. P. BOYCE, of S. C., L. B. FISH, of Ky., C. RHOADS, of O., and E. OLNEY, of Mich.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Devotional exercises were conducted by REV. J. WILLIAM JONES, of Va.

Vice President, H. THANE MILLER, in the chair. Prayer by REV. MR. MASON, of Ill.

REV. S. LANDRUM, D D., of Tenn., read a paper on

DENOMINATIONAL TRAINING, ITS NECESSITY AND METHODS.

Hymn, "Urge them to come."

A spirited discussion upon the subject of Dr. LANDRUM'S paper followed.

The Committee on Enrolment reported the number of delegates present 459, from the following 21 States:

Vermont,	Virginia,	Michigan,
Massachusetts,	South Carolina,	Indiana,
Rhode Island,	Mississippi,	Illinois,
Connecticut,	Tennessee,	Missouri,
New York,	West Virginia,	Kansas,
New Jersey,	Kentucky,	Iowa,
Pennsylvania,	Ohio,	Wisconsin.

The regular order of exercises was suspended, when on motion of E. D. JONES, of Mo., it was resolved that the proceedings of the Convention be published, and that the means necessary thereto be now provided.

The roll was called and delegates from the States represented subscribed for 4,225 copies. The subscription was not completed, but referred to the officers of the Bible and Publication Society.

The Hymn, "Hold on," was then sung.

REV. C. C. BITTING, D.D., of Va., appointed to read an essay on

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LITERATURE AND TEACHERS' HELPS,

having been detained on account of sickness in his family, but having sent his essay, it was read by REV. A. J. ROWLAND, of Pa.

On motion, it was ordered that the evening session begin at seven o'clock.

DR. C. R. BLACKALL, of Ill., from the Committee appointed to prepare Blanks for Statistics for uniform use, reported the following form, which, on motion, was adopted.

Annual Report of the ——— Sunday-school connected with the ——— Baptist Church, belonging to the ——— Baptist Association, State of ———, for the year ending Dec. 31, 18——.

Is it a Baptist School?

" " Union "

" " Mission "

When first organized?

{ Name of Pastor of Church?

{ Name of Post-office ———, County ———, State?

{ Name of Superintendent?

{ Name of Post-office ———, County ———, State?

Whole number of officers and teachers?

Whole number of scholars enrolled?

Number in Church Bible Classes, meeting separately from the School?

Average attendance of officers and teachers during the year?

Average attendance of scholars during the year?

Number of Sundays the school met during the year?

" " of teachers baptized during the year?

" " scholars " " " "

" " Church members in the school?

" " scholars over fifteen years of age?

Have you a *normal* or *training* class?

Have you adopted the Uniform Lessons?

How often do you hold teachers' meetings?

How often do you hold Sunday-school prayer meetings?

Number of volumes in the Library?

" " papers taken each month?

Expenses of the School during the year? \$——.

Amount contributed for State Sunday-school work? \$——.

Amount contributed for other benevolent purposes? \$——.

Total contributions of the School? \$——.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until 7 P. M., after prayer by REV. I. A. HOBBS, of Ohio.

FINAL SESSION, FRIDAY EVENING.

Convention assembled at 7 o'clock, H. THANE MILLER, Vice-President, in the chair.

Devotional exercises were led by G. W. CHIPMAN, of Mass.; L. B. FISH, of Ky., and WAYLAND HOYT, of N. Y. Vice-President MILLER sang the hymn, "Reach me thy hand, child."

At 7.30 Convention was called to order for business. Prayer by REV. W. J. BROWN, colored Sunday-school Missionary of the Bible and Publication Society in Kentucky. The topic of the evening was announced,

THE WORK NOW BEFORE US.

On this topic, REV. JOHN PEDDIE, of Pa., addressed the Convention,

Prayer was offered by REV. B. W. CHIDLAW, Missionary of the American Sunday-school Union.

Hymn, "Song of Victory."

The next address on the topic of the evening, was by REV. J. FULTON, D. D., of Mass., after which the Hymn, "Stand up for Jesus," was sung.

The Chairman then called for "five minute speeches," not arranged for in the programme. The persons called on were asked to represent in their remarks, the Bible and Publication Society; the Ministers and Laymen of Cincinnati, the South, and the West.

REV. DR. RANDOLPH, of Penn. Mr. President, I will not say this is a proud hour, but I do say it is an hour of gratitude and thanksgiving. The enjoyment we have had during these three days—how it has thrilled our hearts! For months that are past this gathering has been in my mind, and upon my heart, calling forth what of thought, of energy, and of prayer, I have been able to give it; and I bless God for the privilege we have had of sitting here in council upon this our great and glorious work. When NOAH DAVIS saw the tract of two leaves fall from the hat, and had thereby suggested to him the formation of the Baptist Tract Society, how little did he dream to what it would grow! When he laid the foundations of the Society, under whose auspices we meet, whose income for the first year was only about \$300, how little did he anticipate the influence which that same society would exert in this year of 1872, when its income has been increased to considerably more than \$300,000, and when its Sunday-school work—only one branch of the work it is doing—has issued in the gathering of this Convention from all parts of our land. Most cordially do I join in the words uttered to-day by Dr. GRIFFITH, in expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving to you, brethren of Cincinnati, for the hospitality you have extended to us, and the ample provision you have made for this Convention.

Now sir, I will conclude what I have to say by reading, with your permission, a letter. Three years ago our First National Sunday-school Convention was held in St. Louis. While we were in session in that city, the Methodist Sunday School Convention was in session at Columbus, Ohio. Some of you will remember how we were thrilled by a telegraphic dispatch from that Convention, and you may remember the response we sent to it. Tomorrow the Methodist Sunday-school Convention will meet in the city of Detroit, and will be in session for the next three or four days. From my friend, Dr. VINCENT, I learn that efforts would have been made to hold the meeting in Cincinnati, had we not previously arranged to hold this gathering here.

Now, sir, instead of a telegraphic dispatch, I propose that we send the following letter, which I have hastily drawn up since the afternoon session:

To the M. E. Sunday-school Convention at Detroit:

DEAR BRETHREN:

The Second National Baptist Sunday-school Convention, now in its closing session, sends Christian salutation.

Our meeting has been a grand and glorious success. In a true sense it has been *National*—459 delegates having been present from 21 different States. For three days the crowded house in which we have been assembled has furnished the most beautiful illustration of brethren dwelling together in unity.

Dr. J. L. M. CURRY, of Richmond, Va., has been President. Of 22 gentlemen,—residing in 12 different States—who were appointed to take important parts in the exercises, only two failed to be present, and one of these sent a carefully prepared paper. *The importance of Bible knowledge and how to impart it* has been the one grand theme from beginning to end. An elevated Christian tone has characterized all the discussions, and a grand impulse has been given to the cause.

Cincinnati received us with open arms, and has treated us with magnificent hospitality. May your meeting be as blessed as ours, and may they both redound to the glory of our common Master.

In behalf of the Convention,

WARREN RANDOLPH,

Bible-School Secretary.

Cincinnati, Nov. 22d, 1872.

I move, sir, that with this letter we enclose a copy of the programme which we have followed during the sessions of this body, and that it be transmitted by mail.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

REV. S. A. COLLINS, representing the Pastors of Cincinnati:

MR. PRESIDENT:—I am glad of the opportunity to stand here a moment and speak in behalf of the Cincinnati Baptists, expressing my own, and, I think, their feeling in regard to the Convention which has held its sessions here during the past three days. When the first session was commenced the Chairman, Dr. TALBOT, expressed himself something in this wise:—When the perfect organization of the Church shall have been accomplished, and all the forces of the Church are gathered up and made to bear upon the work of the Church, then may we expect to accomplish the greatest results for the glory of God and the salvation of mankind.

It struck me that this was the grand idea to be presented before this Convention. I hoped it would be developed, and it has been developed grandly by the speakers. I have been delighted, and I know that I utter the sentiments of my brethren when I say it, with the manner in which the exercises of the Convention have been conducted. The grand thought has been, how to bring these forces under a more perfect organization, that those who are now out of Christ may be brought to a knowledge of him, and made children of God. This grand work in which the Convention has been engaged is becoming more and more the great work of the day with the Church. In the future we are to see the arrangements of the Church perfected, its forces brought to bear upon all classes of the community, so that Christ's glory shall be advanced in their salvation, and their fitness for their work here, and their fitness for the blessedness of the Hereafter.

I am delighted to see the advances made in the Sunday-school work, and I rejoice that I have been permitted to be present at this Convention. The brethren in Cincinnati have been anticipating this gathering for long weeks past with great interest, and, I may say, with great anxiety. An earnest desire was felt among the churches here that the representatives of the churches throughout the land would bring with them the Spirit of the Master, and that the Spirit of God might accompany the words uttered to the salvation of men. We have felt that God's Spirit has been present, and we have united in earnest petition that, when the delegates should go to their homes, they would leave a rich blessing behind, and carry with them the blessing of God to the fields of labor to which they have been appointed.

HON. GEO. F. DAVIS, in behalf of the Baptist laymen of Cincinnati:

I thank you for the privilege of giving expression to the joy we have experienced in meeting our brethren in this Convention. We have come together and struck hand to hand, and heart to heart, and have seen each other face to face. Many old friendships have been renewed, and new friendships have been formed. Listening to the precious thoughts coined from talented minds, we have felt that it was a feast of fat things—a well prepared feast. We have welcomed you here, and we hope that, on your return, you may go to your homes and enter into the work organized here in such a way that it may redound to the glory of God. You will go back imbued with new life, and you will find your schools cold. You, perhaps are the only one who has been here, and you may think you must do something all at once. You cannot do it this Sabbath, or the next, or this month, or the next. It must be done by organization, by study, by adapting yourself to the field in

which you are located. You must adapt your means to the end, and work with the means God has given you, to the best advantage.

There are all sorts of material. Why, we have had the Epizooty here, and we found we could do without horses, because there was an abundance of other material. You must take people as you find them, but you must treat them like men, or like children, as they are, but do not try to be sanctimonious, and do not try to act toward them as though you did not believe they knew much or cared much, or could appreciate that which is good. Let us go home, and go to our work, adapting ourselves to circumstances, so that this Convention will have been of some service.

REV. DR. B. MANLY, of Ky: MR. CHAIRMAN, AND BRETHREN AND SISTERS OF THE CONVENTION, if you will allow me to say so. We have talked very much of the duties of the Brethren, and the success of the Brethren, but we have said very little about the Sisters. I came here to be a learner, an old one and somewhat gray in the service. I have worn my eyes out in trying to understand this Book, and to teach it to others; but I felt that I had much to learn, so I came to this Convention hoping to learn, and intending just as nearly, as possible, to take the position of an oyster, to suck in all and say nothing. If it had not been for Dr. RANDOLPH, I should have kept my purpose to the end. So you must charge to him whatever fault is committed in my breaking my promise to myself.

We have been very much obliged to these brethren for the speeches they have made. You don't know how much you are obliged to me for the speeches I have not made. I think if you brought a tolerably intelligent oyster into an assemblage like this, and let him hear some of this talk, it would move him, and if he had a tongue, he would wag it; so it has been a wonder to me that I have been silent through all these exercises.

I cannot stand here for my brethren of the South, for I am not competent to represent them; but I will represent some whom you may call learners—some who want to learn and know how to do this work; who believe the Lord has called them to it, as well as he has called these preachers to preach—some in whose hearts the Lord has put a love of souls as well as a love of work, of which my Brother PIEDIE spoke so nobly to-night. They want to know how to do the great work before them, but there is danger amid all the good things, and the stirring things, and the plain things, and the memorable things we have had here—there is danger some of us may go away with a sort of discouraged feeling. "Discouraged!" you say—"discouraged!" "Yes." "How? How can any man be discouraged in going away from a meeting like this?"

Well, I will tell you how. A striking description is given by some one, of what a Sunday-school Teacher should be, or what a Superintendent should be, the true spirit, temper, qualifications, and preparation of a teacher; and some young man who is sitting back yonder says, "Well, if that is what is required in a teacher, I am afraid I cannot be one." I know there are others yonder who have felt that way. Now, I want to say to the dear brethren and sisters who may be discouraged because of the vastness of the work, and the elevation of the qualifications required, go on in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the word which he has given you shall be like fire in the forest.

REV. T. W. GOODSPEED, of Illinois:

I rejoice in the privilege of standing here and expressing the gratification and pride I have felt as I have sat day after day, listening to the papers read and the addresses made. I have felt proud of my denomination—proud of my brethren in the ministry—proud of the office I have the honor to fill. As I have listened I have heard and felt the strength and the depth of thought, the thoroughness of analysis, the clearness and purity of style, and the grace and the force of delivery with which these papers and addresses have been characterized; and I go back to my work with new interest, new pride, and new enthusiasm in the denomination and in those who have represented it here.

You remember the objection made to-day, that the superintendents' names came before the pastors' in the reports, and it was suggested that the order be reversed. We have heard

of some sensitiveness on the part of the ministry, and others for them, that our office was not sufficiently magnified. I feel a peculiar pleasure as I look back upon a pastorate of nearly six years, in having a superintendent of geniality and culture. Our hearts were one; they grew together; and I feel peculiar pleasure in thinking that my superintendent and myself sustain this relation. With such a superintendent, we have two pastors in my church. We have two of the ablest Bible-class teachers in the world—Brother Lawrence and Deacon Albro. I feel that my authority and power are not to suffer in their hands any more than in my own.

Since I have been sitting here, I have felt myself growing more and more anxious to go back to my work, with the thought that every man, woman, and child in my church shall be drafted, or shall volunteer into the work of preaching the gospel and engaging in the Sunday-school work. With this thought flaming in my heart, I have felt that I could go back and impress upon my people the truth that they are priests unto God, and that their work is to preach the gospel everywhere, and particularly in the Sunday-school. We have three missions, but I want to see them working more and more.

At the battle of the Alma, after the struggle had been long raging without advantage to either side, Lord Raglan, by accident or providence, went forward to reconnoitre. He found himself on an elevation away in advance of his army, where a single gun could do great execution. He brought up one gun and with that one gun in that position he routed the foe. In the Sunday-school we have a rifled cannon, and in the children we have the position. Let us push the gun forward to the front, and in this work among the children we shall solve the problems of Sabbath desecration, of intemperance, of political impurity, and shall work a reformation of all these things, and the salvation of the generations of the future.

The final address on

THE WORK NOW BEFORE US,

was delivered by Vice-President H. THANE MILLER, who at the close of his remarks requested the Convention to kneel with him and offer silent prayer and thanksgiving, to be followed by an audible prayer offered by REV. DR. JEFFERY. The scene was impressive and affecting.

The assembly then united in singing:

"When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again."

While this was being sung a placard, such as had been used during the Convention to make announcements, was hung upon the wall beside the pulpit, bearing the words:

"FINALLY, BRETHREN, FAREWELL."

The Chairman repeated the words, "Finally, Brethren, Farewell," when the REV. DR. RANDOLPH, pronounced the Benediction, and the Second Triennial Baptist Sunday School Convention adjourned *sine die*.

J. L. M. CURRY, PRESIDENT.

GEORGE M. VANDERLIP, }
DAVID T. MORRILL, } SECRETARIES.