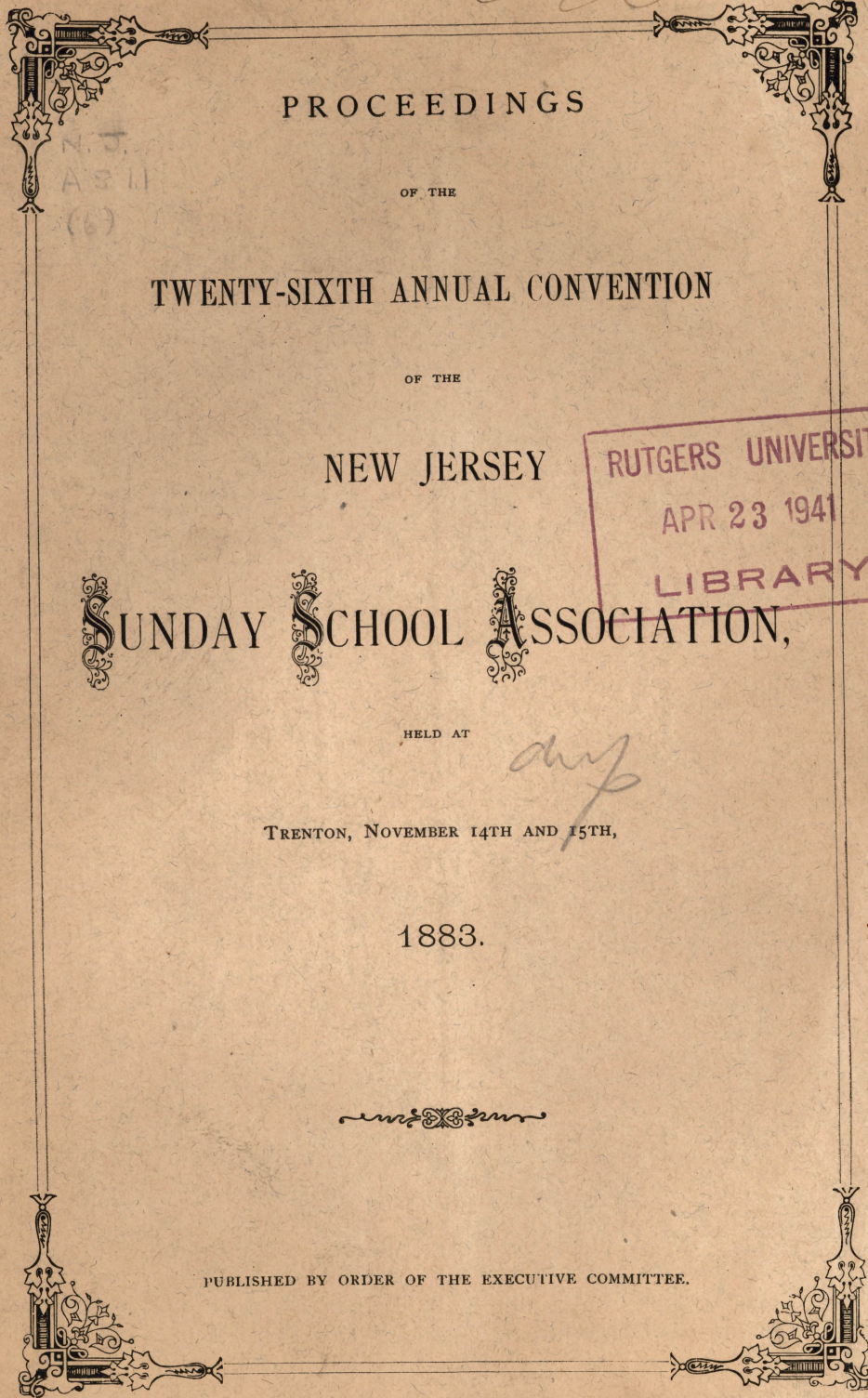


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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

NEW JERSEY

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SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION,

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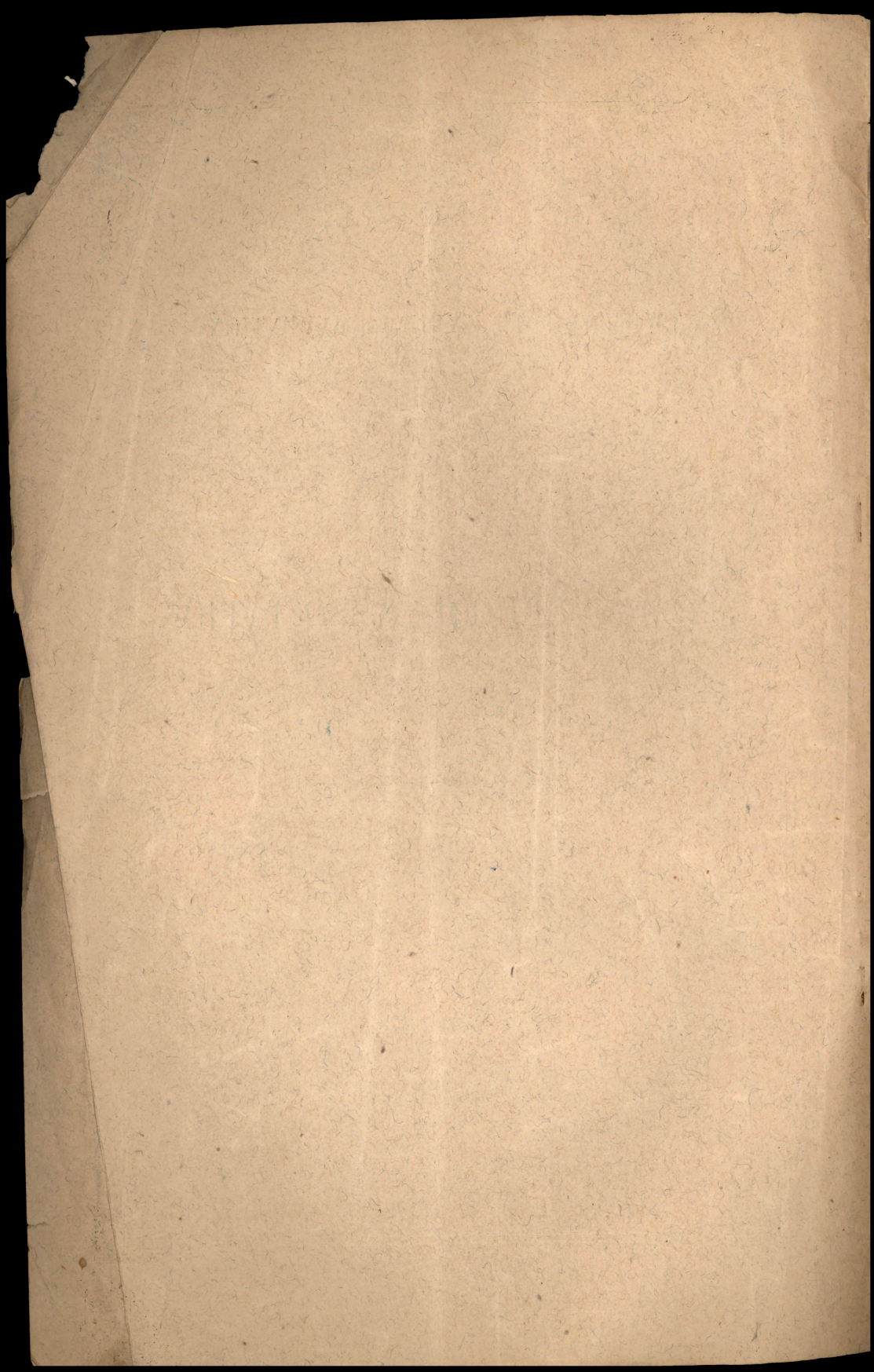
TRENTON, NOVEMBER 14TH AND 15TH,

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION.

1883.

President.—REV. C. H. POOLE, Raritan.

Corresponding Secretary.—REV. S. W. CLARK, Jersey City.

Recording Secretary.—R. W. WOODWARD, Elizabeth.

Treasurer.—W. M. PATTON, Camden.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

REV. W. HARRIS, PRINCETON, CHAIRMAN.

FIRST DISTRICT, REV. L. T. SHULER, V. P.

Sussex County,	REV. W. S. GALLOWAY,	Newton.
Morris County,	REV. I. W. COCHRAN,	Mendham.
Passaic County,	J. B. PUDNEY,	Passaic.
Bergen County,	HON. J. A. DEMAREST,	River Edge.

SECOND DISTRICT, REV. P. M. DOOLITTLE, V. P.

Somerset County,	REV. J. M. MEEKER,	Bound Brook.
Mercer County,	REV. WM. HARRIS,	Princeton.
Hunterdon County,	REV. C. H. TRAVER,	Glen Gardner.
Warren County,	T. A. STEWART,	Stewartville.

THIRD DISTRICT, DR. J. W. COSAD, V. P.

Essex County,	REV. W. H. BRODHEAD,	Newark.
Hudson County,	E. S. COWLES,	Jersey City.
Union County,	REV. A. H. LEWIS,	Plainfield.
Middlesex County,	REV. J. M. McNULTY,	Woodbridge.

FOURTH DISTRICT, REV. R. W. PERKINS, V. P.

Camden County,	H. L. TITUS,	Camden.
Burlington County,	D. F. GIBBS,	Pemberton.
Atlantic County,	J. W. SMITH,	Bargaintown.
Monmouth County,	REV. J. K. MANNING,	Keypport.
Ocean County,	S. F. BLACKMAN,	Lakewood.

FIFTH DISTRICT, DR. GEO. W. BAILEY, V. P.

Gloucester County,	W. H. BODINE,	Williamstown.
Salem County,	J. R. LIPPINCOTT,	Salem.
Cumberland County,	DR. C. C. PHILLIPS,	Deerfield.
Cape May County,	REV. W. L. JONES,	Cape May C. H.

For Officers for 1883-6, see Convention proceedings, *in loco*.

CONSTITUTION.

ADOPTED NOV. 15, 1882.

I.—NAME.

This Association shall be known as the "NEW JERSEY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION," and shall be composed of all evangelical schools co-operating with its organizations, and reporting to its Secretaries.

II.—OBJECTS.

The objects of this Association shall be to secure the attendance of every child and youth in the State upon a Sunday School; to secure the establishment of such new schools as may be necessary, and to co-operate with all fellow-workers in increasing an interest in Bible study, and in the Sunday School work generally.

III.—OFFICERS.

The officers of this Association shall be President, five Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and not more than three of these shall be of the same denomination.

There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the Association, and twenty-one other members, one from each of the counties hereinafter named.

These officers, Vice-Presidents excepted, and the members of the Executive Committee to be nominated by the County Convention, shall be elected triennially, at the regular meeting of the State Delegated Convention, and serve until others are elected. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the several District Conventions, at their annual meetings. Any vacancy shall be filled, in the interim of conventions, by the Executive Committee.

IV.—CONVENTIONS.

The Triennial Convention shall be held at Trenton, on the second Wednesday after the first Monday in November, in the year 1883, and each third year thereafter.

This Convention shall consist of the officers and Executive Committee hereinbefore mentioned, and ten accredited delegates from each county, who shall elect the officers and committees provided for by this Constitution, and arrange the plan of work for the succeeding three years.

The State shall be divided, for convention purposes, into five districts, as follows:

1ST DISTRICT.—The Counties of Sussex, Bergen, Passaic and Morris.

2D DISTRICT.—The Counties of Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset and Mercer.

3D DISTRICT.—The Counties of Hudson, Essex, Union and Middlesex.

4TH DISTRICT.—The Counties of Burlington, Camden, Atlantic, Ocean and Monmouth.

5TH DISTRICT.—The Counties of Salem, Gloucester, Cumberland and Cape May.

In each of these districts an Annual District Convention shall be held under the general direction of the Executive Committee, and the special charge of the Vice-President and members of the Executive Committee from that District. Such convention shall be convened by the Vice-Presi-

dent of the District, and the State Corresponding Secretary shall act as the Corresponding Secretary of each District Convention.

V.—AUXILIARIES.

1. There shall be in each county an Association auxiliary to the State Association, which shall have the more immediate oversight of the work in its own territory. The County Associations shall assist in gathering statistics and providing funds for the maintenance of the State Association, and shall report annually through their Corresponding Secretary to the Corresponding Secretary of the State Association, in such manner and at such time as may be suggested by the State Executive Committee.

The County Associations shall foster the formation of Township or District organizations, and assist in securing the complete occupation of their territory by efficient Sunday Schools.

The Corresponding Secretary, elected by the County Association, shall be the County Secretary of the State Association.

Each County Association shall, at the annual meeting preceding the triennial meeting of the State Association, elect ten delegates to such Convention, and nominate one member of the State Executive Committee, and it shall be the duty of the State Corresponding Secretary to properly notify the County Association of the time when such election shall be held. In case of failure to elect, such delegation may be appointed by the Executive Committee of the County Association.

2. The County Association shall appoint a Township Secretary in such Townships as have no organization, but where organizations exist, Township Associations shall elect their own Township Secretaries, who shall, in addition to visiting the schools and collecting and forwarding the annual statistics of the schools in the Township, convene the Township Executive Committee, which shall consist of the pastors and superintendents of the several churches and schools in the Township. Such Executive Committee shall constitute the officers of a Township Association, auxiliary to the County Association, whose duty it shall be to secure permanent and efficient schools in every available section of the Township, to arrange for neighborhood meetings and institutes, as the exigencies of the work may require.

Provided, That this article shall not be interpreted so as to conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of any Township Association which has been or may hereafter be regularly organized by the adoption of a Constitution.

VI.—FUNDS.

The funds needed to carry forward the operations of the State Association shall be raised in such a manner as the Executive Committee may direct, and shall be disbursed under their direction and order. The Treasurer shall render a detailed account of the receipts and disbursements of each year to the triennial convention for audit and approval, and an annual statement of the state of the treasury shall be made to each of the District Conventions.

VII.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be changed at any triennial meeting of the Association, by a majority of the delegated members present.

This Constitution shall go into effect immediately, and the first election of Officers and Executive Committee shall be made by the delegates to this convention, assembled at Bridgeton, November 14—16, 1882.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

NEW JERSEY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

FIRST SESSION.

TRENTON, Nov. 14th, 1883.

THE NEW JERSEY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION met in the Third Presbyterian Church, in Trenton, on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, at 11 o'clock A. M., to hold its Twenty-sixth Annual Convention. The exercises commenced with the singing of the hymn, "Oh, for a heart to praise my God," the music being under the temporary direction of PROF. KIRKPATRICK, of Philadelphia, until the arrival of DR. H. F. GILMOUR, of Wenonah, the Musical Director of the convention.

The devotional exercises were led by the REV. S. W. STUDDFORD, Pastor of the Church in which the Convention was held. The Chair was then taken by the President, REV. C. H. POOLE, of Raritan. After prayer by REV. JOHN KERSHAW, of Bound Brook, the President addressed the convention:

Dear fellow-workers in the Master's cause:

It is a matter of thankfulness that on the ground of Christian friendship and fellowship we are permitted to greet each other here to-day. But we have a higher ground for gratitude, that, as co-workers with God, we are permitted to consider the interests that belong to His kingdom. The highest Christian joy, the purest gratification, arises from a consciousness of faithfulness in the Lord's work, and of having been the means of assisting in the coming of Christ's kingdom.

There are two questions to which I would briefly refer. The first is, "What is the use of such a convention as this?" Your presence here is a sufficient answer in vindication of their utility and necessity. It indicates

your recognition of the fact that God uses human means in the prosecution of his work, and that it is both proper and desirable that the Christian workers should meet together to consult about these matters, and to give greater efficiency to these human helps in the Lord's work.

The answer to the second question, "What more can we do to save the children?" will fully answer the first. It is for you to answer this question in the proceedings and acts of the convention here assembled. We will not stop to discuss what has been done. We are here to consider the present condition of the Sunday School work in this State, and to enquire whether more can be done in this work. Are there not agencies not yet used? Are there not methods yet undiscovered that shall help and deepen the interest in God's word now being awakened? Have the mass of the workers in this department of the Lord's work been wholly consecrated to the work of saving the children?

We know that no human agency is perfect, yet we also know that there are results that have not been attained in this work. There are higher planes yet to be reached, and we are here to endeavor to find the way to them. You have often been weary in the work, if not weary of it, and yet I am sure there is not one Christian worker in this place to-day who considers himself, or herself, to have yet reached perfection. There are souls unsaved, and you want to do more than you have been doing. It is very much like climbing a high mountain, where every step of the way is steep and rugged. The path is weariness and toil—yet, as you rise higher and higher, looking back, the landscape before you is increasingly beautiful—and you find that toil pays. The prospect only incites the effort to climb still higher. In spite of the weariness you want to reach the top to gain what is to be attained there. So, in your work, you look not back at the things that are behind you, but with an effort to reach forward to the things that are before.

We are here to reach, if possible, the perfection in this work, which may, in God's own time, be attained. If every debate, every resolution, every speech here made, every act of consecration, every song and prayer be accompanied by this striving after perfection, there can be no doubt as to its success.

We can devise, but we cannot execute without God, the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit broods over us with His quickening power, we shall leave this convention to practice what we have planned. Let our prayer be, "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove, with all thy quickening power."

The Chair then appointed the following Committees:

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND ENROLLMENT.—MR. H. L. TITUS, of Camden; MR. V. M. W. SUYDAM, of New Brunswick; REV. S. K. DOOLITTLE, of Stanhope.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.—REV. JOHN W. MEEKER, of Bound Brook; REV. R. W. PERKINS, of Camden; HON. JOHN A. DEMAREST, of River Edge; REV. JOHN KERSHAW, of Bound Brook, and MR. S. S. MIDDLETON, of Hoboken.

On nomination of the delegates from the several counties, the following Committee was then constituted:

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.

Atlantic—REV. L. LARUE.	Middlesex—REV. C. NOBLE.
Bergen—PETER L. CONKLING.	Monmouth—REV. T. W. WELLS.
Burlington—REV. H. R. HALL.	Morris—E. L. DOBBINS.
Camden—JACOB S. STANGER.	Ocean—S. F. BLACKMAN.
Cumberland—W. F. WILSON.	Passaic—J. B. PUDNEY.
Essex—W. B. PORTER.	Salem—J. R. LIPPINCOTT.
Gloucester—R. BENEZET.	Somerset—R. LAMB.
Hudson—E. S. COWLES.	Sussex—REV. S. K. DOOLITTLE.
Hunterdon—REV. C. S. CONKLING.	Union—REV. J. GRIGGS.
Mercer—RALPH EGE.	Warren—REV. J. O. WINNER.

REV. W. HARRIS, of Princeton, Chairman, presented the following:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

By the action of the Annual Convention, held in Bridgeton, November, 1882, your committee was authorized, if the service demanded it, to secure such assistance as would most effectually advance the interests of the cause without involving the Association in expenses beyond its command of funds.

Such demand seemed, in the judgment of the committee, to be made by the work, and the Corresponding Secretary was authorized to give his entire service to the work of the Association. During the year special attention has been directed to labor in Township and County Associations with marked success. Many new Township Associations have been formed, many old ones revived, and a generous impulse awakened in the work in the counties which the Secretary has visited, under the direction of the Executive Committee. The field is too large to be thoroughly gone over in a single year, and the counties in the lower part of the State, having a more scattered population, and needing awakening in regard to affiliated work and its advantages, have received a greater share of the labors of the State Secretary. The results, as shown thus far, warrant the committee in earnestly recommending the further prosecution of the work, both for the sake of what may be done and the advances already made, may be secured and perfected.

The expense attendant upon this new departure was a source of some anxiety to the committee, who, nevertheless, were confident that, were the plans properly understood by the Sunday School workers and scholars, there would be no difficulty in the prosecution of the work. The missionary feature of our design, the "doing good to others," has been fully recognized by the schools at large, and the funds have not been lacking. An envelope was prepared by the committee and largely used by the Township Secretaries, and wherever used the amount contributed by the school was largely increased. When the envelope shall come into general

adoption in the collection of the contribution for State and County work, there will be no difficulty in securing an ample fund for both County and State Associations.

The plan of District Conventions, inaugurated by the last convention, has worked well during the year. Five conventions were held, as contemplated, with the result of increased attendance and added interest. A far greater number of workers were reached, and the stimulating influence of these annual gatherings diffused over a much wider field.

The experience of the year has suggested some modifications in programme, which will render these conventions still more effective as centres of inspiration and influence in the year to come.

The need of complete and thorough organization is more apparent when we examine more closely the statistical results reached. The work of efficient County Secretaries is marred and rendered of little value by the failure in any township to render or secure complete returns. The endeavors of the committee, through the Secretary, will be especially directed to the work of securing thorough live township organizations in the townships hitherto partially or altogether unrepresented.

The value of the work done during the past year will be indicated in the statistical report of the Secretary, showing a revival of interest and a measure of success that is very encouraging, and proving the wisdom of the course marked out by the last convention. The committee recommend a vigorous prosecution of the work in the same direction for the coming year, believing that the labor of the past will produce in the year before us a still more abundant fruitage.

In behalf of the Executive Committee,

WM. HARRIS, Chairman.

On the motion to accept, BRO. HARRIS remarked :

The report of the committee simply covers the matters that were specially referred to that committee at the last convention. At that convention the employment of a Sunday School Missionary was referred to the committee. If they could see their way clearly, financially, they were to secure one. The convention appointed the first meeting at the end of the year, in order to give an opportunity for testing the work—then to submit to this convention whether we should proceed in the same manner or not. It is impossible for any one man to do much within the space of the first year, especially when the work was necessarily commenced somewhat late in the year. It took some time to arrange matters, and suddenly inflate our expenses from \$700 to \$2,100 a year. This, to the practical business men on the committee, was a very serious affair, and was not adopted without serious consideration, not only as to the desirability, but the practicability of raising this sum of money. The Secretary could, in these few months, take but a general survey of the field, and therefore he was obliged to confine his labors largely to one district.

It will be for you to decide, after hearing the reports, whether we shall proceed with this work. We had a large meeting of the Executive Committee this morning, and they fully coincided in the judgment expressed in the report, and had occasion to congratulate themselves and the districts they represented on this new departure.

The report of the committee was accepted, and a resolution of approval made the order of Thursday morning.

The following telegram was, on motion of W. D. PORTER, of Essex, ordered sent to the Kansas Sunday School Association, now in session:

President of the Kansas State Sunday School Association, Manhattan, Kansas:

The New Jersey State Sunday School Association send you Christian greetings and the message in 1st Cor., XV: 58. "Therefore my brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

REV. C. H. POOLE, President.

REV. S. W. CLARK, Secretary.

The convention, on motion, adjourned until half-past two P. M.

SECOND SESSION.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

The devotional exercises of the second session were conducted by REV. J. Y. DOBBINS, of Trenton, after which the Chairman introduced the REV. JOHN HALL, D. D., of New York, who addressed the convention on "Evils to be guarded against."

DR. HALL'S ADDRESS.

Undoubtedly the Sunday School cause has acquired a magnitude and importance which I am sure its early friends hardly ventured to anticipate for it. It has been brought before the notice of the public, more particularly during the last eight or nine years, from the co-operation that has been effected, not only among the various churches, but even among various Christian nations through the international system of lessons. It is brought also very permanently before the notice of the world in connection with the great convention in London, commemorating the work of ROBERT RAIKES, at which I had the pleasure of being present. I remember very few scenes more full of inspiration than that of the Christian workers there present, and the enthusiasm they manifested. I remember one particular meeting where the workers and friends of the cause in that great city had a day to themselves at the great palace, and it was estimated that there were 47,000 persons present, and the notable thing of which the London newspapers took cognizance was that whereas on other days of this kind the police had to make a number of arrests, their services were not needed on that particular day.

There are 13,000,000 young people simultaneously engaged in the study of these lessons, and the religious press of the country, without exception,

has been good enough to give a prominent place in their papers to facilities helping teachers in preparing themselves for their teaching labor. All these things indicate the degree of prosperity which God has been pleased to give to this cause, and it is one of the inevitable conditions, that, when anything has attained magnitude and importance, there begins, in the nature of the case, to be evils felt against which some precaution must be taken. This is the explanatory word with which I think it right to utter at the beginning, lest any one should suppose there was serious cause for alarm, seeing we make this the topic of discussion.

Wealth is desirable in itself, yet there are evils to be guarded against in connection with its possession. There are dangers that the sons and daughters of wealthy people may attach too much importance to the externals and too little to the realities of life. There is the danger of being contented with too limited and too low a degree of piety. In the same way, education, when carried to a high degree, has certain attendant evils against which its possessor needs to be guarded. There is the danger of over-confidence, there is the danger that the learned man may deserve the criticism once passed upon such a one by a sharp observer, who said, "Whether he had original genius or not I do not undertake to say, but the fact is, he has loaded so many books upon his brain that it is not possible for his brain to live under the load." Just in the same way there is real danger connected with church prosperity. The temptation will be to believe that a good church, with which people may have the privilege to be connected, will take care of them. They readily find a substitute for their own imperfections, not in the living Christ, but in the living creature that is set face to face with them. Then, again, the services of a good and able minister have certain attendant evils, against which Christian people ought to be on their guard. There is a danger that the sense of individual responsibility will be lost on the part of the people. The minister plans everything so well; he does so much; he fills his place with such conspicuous excellence, that there is no burden laid upon any one else. The late DR. ADAMS said there were many churches conducted on the principle of two parties only being responsible for the whole—the minister at one end of the church, and the quartette at the opposite end. It is necessary to guard against an evil such as this.

Liberty is good, but the enjoyment of it may degenerate into licentiousness. We may plume ourselves upon being free without taking into account the limitation of freedom. We may be found giving ourselves to free-thinking, free-living, or even free-loving, and thus abuse one of the greatest privileges human nature can enjoy. Authority is a good thing, but even authority needs to be guarded against, because of certain incidental evils. It may become despotism on the part of him who wields it, and lead to the helplessness of those who are under him, as was the case in those pre-reformation times to which attention has lately been called in the career of the great Martin Luther. But nobody thinks less of wealth, liberty, learning, authority, a prosperous church or an efficient minister, because of the incidental evils which have to be guarded against, and so no one thinks less of the great Sunday School institution because of the dangers on the right hand and on the left, against which its friends need to maintain a careful watch.

In our great cities there are two classes of schools growing up, the Sunday School, pure and simple, and what are called the Mission Schools. Those who count themselves moderately well off, keep out of the Mission Schools on the ground that they are altogether for the poor, and they have nothing to do with them. I was a minister for sixteen years in the old country, and I observed the people were constantly inclined to make an arbitrary classification in their institutions, and I am sorry to say I have seen much of the same spirit in the democratic institutions of this country, and we need to be on our guard against this. There is constantly a temptation to think of not only what school people will select for their children on the Lord's day, but I have known of a little engineering about the class they are put into, the standard not being the capacity of the teacher for teaching, but for social considerations and their influence on the future life of the pupils. These things we have to guard against. They fight against castes in India, and we have to take a little care that we do not here allow such a condition of things. Perhaps the danger does not strike you as much as it does us in the great cities, but where it does exist, we are to be on our guard against it.

In the second place, there is the danger of our appealing to too great an extent to what I shall venture to call the sordid element in our Sunday School. We have gotten into a system of entertainments, if not exactly rewards, to popularize our schools. The temptation is to hold these things up before the pupils and their friends as a reason why they should come under Sunday School influence.

We must tell the children that we want them to attend Sunday School that they may receive instruction, and not that they may swell the numbers that we may make pretentious reports. We should strive to have them attend, not for rivalry, but because we look upon these poor children as dead in trespasses and sins, and we want to teach them and guide them to Him who is able to make them live unto Himself through faith that is in Jesus Christ.

Thirdly. There is a danger to be guarded against in the selection of our Sunday School teachers. We get a young man or girl to join the church, and then the temptation is strong to say, "Let us get him or her to teach in the Sunday School," the real thought being, not how much he can teach, but how he can be brought into good and healthier associations. It is all very well to study the means of grace for this young man, or that attractive young lady, but the first thing which should be considered is their capacity to teach, and their character to sustain the things that are taught. Unless we are careful in our selection of teachers, there will be loss instead of gain in the good results that we expect to follow from such selection. When a teacher is incompetent, her class will not be well attended. I know an instance where a scholar reported that her teacher spent a great deal of time in telling her class of the entertainments she had been at during the week, and giving them some interesting information about the costume she wore on those occasions. We must look for teachers who know the truth, love the truth, and teach the truth, and who are prepared to sink themselves out of sight that they may lift up Jesus Christ and make Him attractive to those who come under their influence.

In the next place there is some little danger of our allowing the Sunday School to become the substitute to the pupils for the services of the church. This, it seems to me, applies not only in large cities, but all over the country. Attention has been called to this matter again and again, and I will not dwell upon it at any great length. How shall we deal with this question? The Sunday School is not a thing outside of the church. The Sunday School work is the church doing its duty to such of the young as have been brought under its influence. The Sunday School teachers are our fellow-laborers in the great work of the church in teaching the young.

How are we to prevent the young people from putting the Sunday School in the place of the church? We must teach them the relation of the Sunday School to the church. That church is the strongest that has the largest number of pews occupied with the children, as well as the parents. Ministers have adopted two methods to keep the children in the church. One is to devote five or six minutes before the sermon exclusively to the children. I dare say this interests the children, and in some instances does good, but I am afraid, if I was a child, I should be tempted to go home after my part of the sermon was delivered and not sit an uninterested spectator for an hour or so until the other portion of the people got their part.

There is another method, that is, to preach a sermon now and then wholly for young people. I think the best course would be to so shape the sermon that even the average child, by giving attention, will understand the greater part of it. One of my brethren in Philadelphia, a clergyman of the Presbyterian Church, and an accomplished naturalist, in illustrating this subject, is reported to have said: "A cook of ordinary capacity can so manage a leg of mutton that there will be dinner for father, mother, sons and daughters, and even the youngest will have enough for the occasion." So if a sermon is rightly handled there will usually be a portion adapted to the fathers and mothers, and yet fit, in some degree at least, to satisfy the spiritual appetite of their sons and daughters attending upon the means of grace in God's house.

Then, again, there is some danger of the parents making their minds easy in relation to their obligations, on the ground that the Sunday School teachers are doing their proper work. This is a great evil, and one against which we should be constantly on our guard. There are certain things that Sunday School teachers cannot do in the room of the parents, and because they cannot in the nature of the case do these things, it is a gross mistake on the part of the parents to delegate their duties to them. There is something written in the Old Testament about the use of the rod as having some place in the training and up-bringing of the young; and is it not upon the parents that that obligation rests? That parent makes a great mistake who supposes that because he sends his little boy once a week to a Sunday School for a few hours' teaching by one who is benevolently and Christianly inclined to do that work, that that relieves him from the work of teaching, training and giving religious instruction at home. The teachers are the helpers of the parents and not their substitutes.

Then, in the last place, there is a little danger in the direction of our dwelling upon the side issues and incidental elements of religious teaching to the neglect of the Bible. The greater the privileges and advantages

we have, the greater the risk of dwelling upon these and abusing them. We never before had such apparatus for the work of Sunday School teaching as we have at the present time. I thank God there is no part of the work that I have had anything to do with in all my life that has given me more real satisfaction than that connected with Sunday School teaching and training. We have such great facilities for getting light upon the side issues that we often allow them to monopolize our attention, withdrawing it from the substantial elements which make the basis of Christian life. We have more opportunities for studying geography, topography, and a hundred other things, than our fathers had. We have black boards and object lessons in endless variety for illustration, and we have to take care that these things do not enlist our sympathies and monopolize our attention when it should be given to the great leading truths that ought to be fixed indelibly upon the brain.

Dear friends, Sunday School teachers, teach Bible truths; teach the great doctrines contained in the Bible. Sometimes the question is put, "What is the reason we should teach them when the children do not understand them?" Many a child has learned the multiplication table before having the least conception of the use to which it is to be put, and the same rule will apply to his religious teaching.

In conclusion, do your work as in God's sight; do it in the very spirit of Jesus Christ; do it patiently; do it gently; do it in view of the judgment seat. Try to be such that your pupils will say as you go away, "Well, whatever may be said against religion, or for it, I know that my teacher is a child of God, and has the temper and feeling of a child of God, and I would like to be one of His people." God bless you in your work.

The President then announced the following Committees:

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORDER.—REV. J. M. McNULTY, REV. A. H. LEWIS, DR. J. W. COSAD.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.—REV. I. W. COCHRAN, RUSSEL W. WOODWARD, REV. W. H. BRODHEAD.

COMMITTEE ON TREASURER'S REPORT.—R. LAMB, FRANKLIN DEY, JOHN M. TURNER.

REPORTS OF DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

REV. L. T. SHULER, Vice-President, Chairman of the First District Convention, reported as follows:

The First District Convention was held at Morristown, May 22d. The convention was held on such a stormy day that few persons could get there. It was attended only by those who could come by train, and those living in the immediate vicinity. We had some of the best addresses that I have listened to for a long time at such a meeting, and the only trouble was that there were so few present to listen to them. While we have had the opportunity of starting the working of the plan under our new Constitution, still I do not think any one of us is able to report in great detail what the result has been.

REV. JAMES LE FEVRE, from the Second District Convention, reported as follows :

The convention was held at Lebanon, in Hunterdon County, June 5th. The addresses were admirable and to the point, and it was the opinion of every one present that the convention was a grand succes. We were all satisfied.

DR. J. W. COSAD, Vice-President, from the Third District Convention, reported as follows :

The Third District Convention was held in Young Men's Christian Association Hall, Newark, May 16th. Three sessions were held, and it was an excellent convention. I think as much good was done in those three sessions of the District Convention as has been done in most of our State Conventions. It was very generally a representative convention, from the fact that the Committee on Entertainment provided for 250 delegates from the four counties of that district. Most of the addresses were excellent, and some of them will never be forgotten. Our convention paid its expenses and had a little left over.

REV. R. W. PERKINS, Vice-President, reported as follows :

The Fourth District, which embraces Camden, Burlington, Atlantic, Monmouth and Ocean Counties, had its District Convention at Mt. Holly, Thursday, May 17th. It was largely attended. There was a full session, and great interest was felt in the Sunday School work. If these conventions could be held all over the State it would be better than to have one mass meeting. The spirit of the meeting was admirable indeed. To the efficiency of the State Secretary, the District Convention meeting owes the most of its success. I am heartily in favor of the new departure.

DR. GEO. W. BAILEY, Vice-President, reported for the Fifth District Convention :

The Convention for the Fifth District was held in Clayton, Gloucester County, May 31st, and was well attended by most of the counties of the district. The meeting was a very enthusiastic one. It was well appreciated, and I trust will be of great profit to the State. The addresses were good, and were listened to with great interest.

The Corresponding Secretary then presented his annual report, as follows :

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

There has been a marked increase in the interest shown in the Association's work during the year just closed, and the statistical returns from the County Secretaries, show a corresponding advance in the results thus summarized. The summary for several years has shown but little gain in every item but the aggregate number of scholars enrolled, while the average number of pupils in attendance, the true measure of advance,

has been steadily decreasing. This year shows a large advance along the entire line, with the exception of the aggregate number of pupils, which is a little less than that of last year. The following is the summary of the work done by the church in this State during the year, in the department of Bible study among the young, in comparison with the summary of 1882:

	1883.	1882.
Number of Schools in the State.....	1,962	1,876
Number of Schools Reporting (and estimated).....	1,817	1,736
Number of Schools open all the year... ..	1,550	1,472
Number of Officers and Teachers.....	30,261	26,042
Number of Scholars of all grades.....	197,384	195,167
Total in Sunday School Work.....	227,645	221,209
Average Attendance of all... ..	151,331	137,136
Number of Scholars of School Age in the State	349,242	330,685
Number of Scholars of School Age attending Sunday School... ..	145,682	
Number who have joined the Church.....	6,526	4,428
Volumes in Libraries.....	405,770	
Amount contributed for Benevolent Purposes.....	\$53,992 29	
Amount raised for County and State Work.....	\$2,819 83	\$1,465 80

It has been my endeavor this year to have the summary as complete as possible, and therefore to the amounts as given by the County Secretaries I have added the figures given in the Diocesan Reports of the P. E. Schools, not reporting, so far as relates to number of teachers and number of scholars, and estimating the others by the relative ratio of each item in the schools already reporting. This leaves still unreported 145 schools, about 7½ per cent. of the entire number. Including the P. E. Schools, we have the sums total given in our statistical report for this year. This accounts for some of the apparent gain over last year, but the schools actually reporting (1,743) show a gain over about the same number last year, as follows:

Gain in number of Schools	12	
“ “ reporting.....	4	
“ “ open all the year..	17	
“ “ of Officers and Teachers.....	3,377, or 11½ per cent.	
Loss in “ of Scholars of all grades.....	3,419, or 2	“
“ “ attending Sunday School....	42	
Gain in average attendance.....	9,545, or 7	“
“ number who have joined the Church.	1,738, or 39	“
“ amount contributed for State and County Work.....	\$1,433 03, or 100	“

The loss in the number of scholars reported as enrolled is due to the fact that a more rigid inquiry has been made, and the number reported from the schools this year has largely excluded those who are only present at rare intervals. The true number of scholars thus presented would be, I believe, much in excess of that of former years, had the same test been applied to the enrollment of those years.

The subject of township and district organization has been given especial attention during the year, and many old organizations have been re-

vived and new ones formed. With the increased attention given to this branch of the work, we may reasonably look for a rapid stride in this direction.

In the prosecution of the work assigned by the Executive Committee, your Secretary has traveled 8,397 miles, visiting, in especial work, sixty-two townships in thirteen counties of the State. Many of the meetings held in these townships were very large, and in most of them advance measures were taken toward organization. More public meetings in the interest of the work have been held this year than in any former year. I have delivered sixty-eight addresses at these meetings, holding Sabbath services in the interest of the cause on twenty-three Sabbaths; visiting fifty Sabbath Schools, and preaching thirty-six times on "Home Training and Church Duties to the Youth." I have also attended twenty County Conventions, twenty-one meetings of Executive Committees of counties, and thirteen meetings of District Convention Executive Committees. This line of work, with the conferences with Pastors and Superintendents, has fully occupied the time allotted me for the work. These details cannot measure the labor, but will give some idea of the manner in which the time of the Secretary has been employed.

There is much yet to be done in the way of complete organization in county work. Many townships are yet unsupplied with live, efficient men, who will appreciate and discharge their duties. It will be a great gain to the work if personal visitation of these townships can secure the men who will be helps and not hindrances to County Secretaries.

Most of our Township Secretaries are giving largely of time and zeal to this matter, and to their earnest faithfulness most of the success of our work is due. It is the one or two uninterested ones in a county who seriously mar the work by their indifference. The past year shows a large increase in the number of efficient and faithful Township Secretaries. All honor to them.

Two or three phases of our work demand especial attention at this time, and I believe a healthful advance cannot be secured until they receive the consideration from Christian workers that will remedy these defects. One is the comparatively small number of children of our Sabbath School who are regular attendants upon divine service. Much complaint is made of a sad falling off in this regard. Another is the small ratio of children of school age in the Sunday Schools of our State, less than forty-two per centum being enrolled in Protestant schools. From observation in a large number of schools, the conviction is forced upon us that a large proportion of these are lads, needing the especial care and guardianship of the Sunday School.

May the year opening before us be productive of more work and better work on the part of all the laborers in this part of the Master's vineyard.

The large number of conversions reported this year demands our grateful praise to our Heavenly Father, being largely in advance of the report of several years, and only twice exceeded in the history of the work. May the harvesting go on until the motto of the State Association, "Every child a scholar, and every scholar a Christian," shall be fully realized.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL W. CLARK, Cor. Sec'y.

WALTER M. PATTON, Treasurer, then rendered his report, which will be found at the close of these minutes.

The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Treasurer's Report.

The nomination of delegates to the International Convention was referred to the next Executive Committee.

On motion of REV. W. HARRIS, the following resolution was accepted and referred to the Committee on Resolutions :

Resolved, That this Association does not recognize the claim made upon it for a balance of \$275 said to have been pledged at Toronto, but hereby agrees that the Treasurer be authorized to send by the hands of one of the delegates chosen by this convention, the sum of \$100, as our contribution, to the funds of the Fourth International Convention, it being understood that this is solely for expenses to accrue during the next three years.

The convention then, according to the order of the day, went into a

CONFERENCE ON PLANS OF WORK.

MR. E. S. COWLES, of Jersey City, *Conductor* :

If I understand rightly, the idea of such a conference is to get from those present their methods of work so that others may learn from them. As Sabbath School teachers, we are, most of us, workers in some township, county or State organization. Suppose we first take up the township plan of work. Will some one tell us their plan? What is the first thing you do in starting the township organization?

REV. W. HARRIS, of Princeton :

I might state how not to do it? I have seen teachers get together for organization but no one had a form for an organization, Constitution or By-Laws, and consequently no organization took place. It was resolved to draw up such a form, but it was never done.

A MEMBER :

How many township organizations are represented here?

Conductor :

All those who are engaged in township organization at home will please raise their hands. There are twenty. What did you do first? You had a meeting. Whom did you invite to that meeting? The men who were interested in it—Pastors and Sunday School teachers. Did they come? Some did, and some did not. You invited fifty, and six came.

A MEMBER :

Three, in our township.

REV. J. F. RIGGS, of Cranford :

The great majority of the townships have one strong school and five or six weak ones, and the difficulty is, that the Superintendents of the weak

schools have a suspicion that the design of the leading school is to attach all the rest to itself as satellites, or as spokes are attached to the hub. We must adopt some method to alleviate that feeling.

MR. H. G. SMITH, of Berlin :

We have an organization and a Constitution, and we call our meetings at stated times, and whether hot or cold, wet or dry, we hold our meetings at those times. We have a programme for our meetings, comprising black-board exercises, discussions, &c. We vary our programme from time to time. We give notice of these meetings to every Pastor and Superintendent in the district. We have a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee, and we elect these officers annually.

Conductor :

Do you take any measures to find out how many scholars there are who attend Sabbath Schools, and who do not? What measures do you take?

MR. H. G. SMITH :

We canvass the township.

REV. W. H. FILSON, of Frenchtown :

In some of our townships we have some person visit the houses and take down the names, and enquire whether they attend Sabbath School. If they have a preference for any Sunday School we take their names and send them in to the church. We are after the old folks now, for we know if we get them the children will come.

Conductor :

Is this conducted in any respect on denominational lines, or are you all together?

REV. W. H. FILSON :

We are all together ; we are Sunday School workers.

REV. T. E. LONG, of Warren County :

Township work is the fruit of county conventions. A Secretary is appointed and it is his business to look after township organization.

REV. W. HARRIS :

I would like to call attention to what may be called the reciprocal advantages of these township organizations, which some of our strongest schools overlook. They are doing efficient work at home, and are seldom represented in our county or State organizations, and we do not get the benefit of their experience in this matter. We owe something to others as well as to ourselves. A school may be perfect. We will imagine such a school. It does everything exactly right. It has the most perfect methods. If that is the case, it is the duty of that school to let its light shine and help us who do not have such good schools. It is a duty we owe to others to let our light shine.

REV. I. W. COCHRAN, of Mendham :

I wish to say, in regard to this county and township work, that we ought not to lose sight of the main thing, and that is how we may get more spiritual power in our township, county and State organizations.

MR. J. C. BOWEN, of Cumberland :

We have held two conventions every year ; for twenty-five years we have never failed in holding two conventions or institutes each year. We have an Executive Committee consisting of seven persons, who, previous to holding the convention, make out a programme, which is varied from time to time in order to interest the people. This convention has been growing in interest and usefulness during twenty-five years, and now most of our townships in Cumberland have organizations. We have ninety-seven schools in the county, and have them in all the neighborhoods where schools are needed.

MR. R. W. WOODWARD, of Elizabeth :

We have a Teachers' Meeting every week, and our teachers are always ready to help in every good work. In Elizabeth we have, every Saturday evening, a meeting for the study of the lesson. These meetings are conducted by various leaders. Our expenses are four or five hundred dollars, but they are readily met. We have had with us DR. VINCENT, DR. HURLBURT, and other men of that stamp. We have also had native talent, and our class meetings have been well attended. We have kept these meetings up for four or five years. We thought it was a good undertaking to hold these meetings, and as they filled a want, we have continued them. DR. HURLBURT has a plan of normal work in regard to the lands of the Bible, and various things of that kind, and it is important that every Sunday School teacher should have it as ground work for his teaching. In place of having our meetings on Saturday for the study of the lesson, we have been having these meetings of DR. HURLBURT for normal work. His tickets for the course of twelve lessons were issued for one dollar, and we found the people were more ready to pay for the lessons than to have them free.

REV. I. W. COCHRAN offered prayer, and the convention adjourned at 6 P. M.

THIRD SESSION.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, 7:30 P. M.

The third session of the convention commenced with devotional exercises, led by REV. E. J. FOOTE, of Trenton, after which the order of the evening was taken up, which was first, an address by REV. JAMES M. FREEMAN, D. D., on "The Sunday School a help to the Church."

DR. FREEMAN'S ADDRESS.

Were I to traverse the whole ground suggested by the theme announced in the programme, I should doubtless weary your patience, besides trespassing on the time of my friend who is to follow me. When I speak of the Sunday School as a help to the church, I do not mean that the Sunday

School is a substitute for the church. It is not help in that way but rather a hinderance. Nor do I mean that the Sunday School is to act independently of the church. The Sunday School can only help the church by acting in perfect harmony with it, with the distinct understanding that the aims, the hopes and the labors of the church and of the Sunday School are identical. It is to be a help, not a hinderance. Nor is it a help as one independent man helps another independent man, for these are not two distinct institutions, but one. The Sunday School is to help the church as a son should help his father. It is to be in subordination to church authority, to have an organic union with the church, and in all things to be a follower rather than a leader. The great design of the church among men is to lift up the world, and the great object of the Sunday School is to help the church in lifting up the world. Whatever line of work the church proposes, the Sunday School should help, so far as it can, in that work. The thoughts, ideas, aspirations of the one, should become the thoughts, the ideas, the aspirations of the other. I can illustrate my subject to-night by referring to only two characteristics of the church in which I think the Sunday School may help.

One characteristic of the present time is an increased interest in childhood. I question if there ever was a time since the first child made its appearance on the earth, where there was as great an interest in childhood as a whole, as there is to-day. The church to-day has a better understanding of the spiritual wants of childhood, than she ever had, a better understanding of the spiritual capacities of childhood than she had in a former day. There are people in this house to-night who can remember the time when it was a mooted question as to the probability of childhood conversion, and in some places it was not a mooted question, simply because the proposition seemed to be so absurd that nobody would discuss it. Now we are not afraid to come out with annual reports, and state that so many of the dear youth trusted to Sunday School teachers have professed conversion in the year. There are many instances where the barriers of prejudice are melting away. One of the most prominent ministers of New York told of a little girl asking to unite with the church. He was satisfied she was a fit subject for the kingdom of God on earth, and he strongly advocated her admission. She was brought into the company of venerable men, and some of them put questions to her. They were a little afraid that the child did not understand these things. One venerable man said, "My little girl, if the Lord Jesus Christ should want you to die for him—because you know people have been burned before now, and had their heads cut off for the cause of Christ—if your Lord Jesus Christ should want you to be burned to death for him, do you think you would be willing?" She stood for a minute looking at the floor, then, gently raising her eyes, she said, "I think if the Lord Jesus Christ wanted me to die for him, I could do it." Do you think they had any doubts after that? The old grandfather who asked the question broke down in tears.

Another characteristic of the church of Christ of the present day, is an increased interest in the word of God. I venture the assertion that there has not been a time since the conclusion of the sacred canon, when God's word was more generally read, examined and studied than it is to-day. DR. HALL, this afternoon, alluded to the significant fact that

every religious paper in the land now published notes upon the Sunday School lessons. Why do they do that? Simply because some of them found out a few years ago that it would not do not to do it. These are signs that show the truth of what I have advanced, that there is an increasing interest in God's word. This word is not simply to be read, but is to be studied. There is room for improvement in this respect; it is not so thoroughly understood as it ought to be. I make no claim that the Bible is studied as it ought to be studied, but it is more generally studied now than it ever has been.

There is no book in the wide range of literature that will bear so much study as the Bible. It is like a mine that shows upon its surface some richness, but the deeper you dig the more precious the ore.

We must not forget that efforts are made to draw the children away from God, while we are striving to bring them nearer to him. "It was my street education which ruined me," said a poor fellow in a prison cell, condemned to die for murder. There are men whose business it is to debauch the morals of youth by impure literature.

Eight hundred years ago, a pious Mussulman erected a mosque for the worship of the one true God; and he had the cement used in the building, mixed with musk. Though 800 years have passed away, and the pious heart which devised the gift has long since ceased to beat, yet to-day when the traveler crosses the threshold of that mosque, his senses are regaled with the perfume that has so long been there. And so with our labors; long years after our labors have passed away, there may come up here and there a precious character, redolent of the perfume of love planted by some humble Sabbath School teacher.

"Soldiers of the Cross, arise," was then sung, after which REV. TALBOT W. CHAMBERS, D. D., of New York City, was introduced and addressed the convention:

DR. CHAMBERS' ADDRESS.

The subject upon which I propose to speak here for a few minutes, is the "Dignity of the Teacher's Office." It so happens, that one of the literary institutions with which I am connected, as a trustee, had need to increase its endowment, and the duty fell upon me to take a part in the endeavor to accomplish that object, and sometimes to present its claim from the pulpit; and that led me to think on the general subject of teaching, and I was very much struck with the result at which I arrived in regard to the popular estimate of teaching. We have schools of all kinds scattered all over the country, and the subject is treated in the halls of Congress, in Legislatures and in Governor's messages, and yet how little is the office itself understood or appreciated. I hold, on the contrary, that the teacher is the highest function under heaven. One reason is, because it exemplifies what is a most characteristic peculiarity of our holy religion as distinguished from other religions. There are plenty of religions in the world, but there is nowhere on the face of the earth to-day another religion which requires its people to be instructed in the reasons and character of its faith.

This instruction was required even in those periods when the Pentateuch

was given. Direction was given in Deuteronomy, in regard to instructing the children in the words of the law. Then in the New Testament the command is given, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them all things whatsoever I command you." So we find that one of the names given to the ministers of religion is, "teachers," that is, their function was to teach and to impart knowledge to those among whom they live and labor. Now with the growing corruption of the Christian religion, our emancipation from which has been celebrated within a week throughout the whole Protestant world, this function fell into disuse, and one of the great manifestations of the reformation of the sixteenth century was the prominence which it gave to preaching and teaching. Now it is common for men to say that we make a fetish of the Bible. "You charge us," they say, "with idolatry, but you have bibliolatry, and the one is about as good as the other." Is there a particle of ground for such an assertion? Is not this assembly, and that vast body of which it is a specimen, an evidence that instead of worshipping the outside of the Bible, they study and teach the inside of the Bible?

Then in the next place, the difficulty of the work expresses its dignity. It involves the possession and the exercise of high powers and faculties. The teacher proposes to teach—that is, to place truth in the minds of those who are under his care, to make it clearer to them, and this requires the teacher to study the lesson which is assigned him. The first thing the teacher has to do is to find out what the lesson means, the next thing is to find out what it teaches, and the third thing, and most difficult of all, is to discover the way in which what it means and what it teaches can be lodged in the mind of the scholars, so that they will see it and feel it as clearly and intensely as the teacher does. If anybody thinks that is easy work, let him try it.

I dare say many of the teachers before me have in their classes children whom they hope are really converted and are children of God. These children need your teaching, I was going to say, as much as they did before. They require to be trained and to be taught, for the more knowledge they have of the essential truth of the Scripture and the larger the acquaintance they have with its facts and its history, the stronger they will be in the service of the Master, and the better fitted to take their part on the world's stage when they arrive there.

Then, once more, the teacher imitates Christ. Now, the great work of our Lord Jesus Christ, that which He came from Heaven to perform, was one in which He could have no follower, as He had no partner, in atoning for our sins. But along with that He was a prophet as well as a priest. Mark says in the opening of the tenth chapter: "As He was wont he taught them," and in the Gospels we often have that expression of our Lord's teaching—not simply proclaiming, not simply repeating, but teaching—that is, giving a didactic statement, an utterance designed to give important information to those who will listen. What a teacher! How wise! "I have many things to say unto you but you cannot bear them now." It was impossible, until the Lord died and had arisen and ascended to Heaven, that the great facts of the Christian system could be properly understood. That work was left with the Apostles.

He spoke to the Disciples as they were able to bear. There was careful, thoughtful judgment in the form and manner of His teaching. Then He repeated His teachings. Now, you find if you try to make harmony of the Gospels that it is impossible even to approach a successful result, and fully to accomplish a successful result, I suppose never will be done in this world. But you cannot approach it without supposing that our Lord repeated the same things on different occasions to different companies in different places. Why? Not because it was poverty of language; not because it was intellectual barrenness, but He saw that it was wise; therefore those following in His steps may do the same. How gentle His teaching! When the ridiculous quarrel sprang up among the Apostles as to who should be greatest, He took a little child and put him in the midst and said: "Whosoever receiveth that little child in My name, receiveth Me." Did any one of those men ever forget that gentle but most effective reproof. How faithful as a teacher! Men talk to us at the present time of the day of future retribution, and yet it so happens that more is said on that subject in plainer terms and more startling by the blessed Saviour than on any other. Then what a loving teacher! I suppose that is the reason why the officers came back, and when asked the reason of their failing to arrest him, replied, "Never man spake like this man."

My dear Sunday School teachers, we have just the same work in all its details. Our duty is to teach the truth of God and put it in the hearts of the children. Now, I say it animates Christian efforts to reflect upon the dignity of that. It is worth poring over a good many books, laying awake at night thinking of the meaning of the Scriptures, if we can accomplish such work as that.

The session was closed with prayer by REV. DR. LEWIS, after which the benediction was pronounced by REV. DR. CHAMBERS.

FOURTH SESSION.

THURSDAY MORNING, 9:30.

The fourth session of the convention opened with devotional exercises, led by MR. W. D. PORTER, of Orange Valley. After some time spent in prayer and praise, the regular order of business was resumed.

REV. W. HARRIS moved the adoption of the following resolution:
Resolved, That this convention having learned from the reports of the Executive Committee, the State Secretary, the District Conventions, and the Treasurer, the success of the plan of work inaugurated at the last annual convention, now give it their hearty approval, and hereby instruct the Executive Committee to continue the present arrangement with the REV. S. W. CLARK, until the meeting of the next State Convention, provided the funds for its maintenance can be obtained from the Sabbath Schools of the State.

REV. C. H. POOLE, President:

I presume the adoption of this resolution will be a practical adoption of the report of the Executive Committee.

DR. GEO. W. BAILEY :

I give my emphatic endorsement to the work of BROTHER CLARK last year. I have been in a position to know something of his labors, his zeal and his success ; and I hope every member of this committee will, by an emphatic vote, endorse the work done by him last year, which promises rich results in the future.

MR. W. B. PORTER, of Essex :

The work done last year has been important in keeping up the interest in our small schools.

MR. S. F. BLACKMAN, of Lakewood :

I come from the New Jersey Pines, in Ocean County, where the country is sparsely settled, and the people are poor and need a great deal of help. We have received the kind and efficient help of our Secretary, and I wish to say emphatically, that we appreciate the labor we have had from him this past year, and I can look forward to the future with a brighter prospect of success from having that labor expended in our field, that not only the Pines will sprout and grow, but fruit will grow from our Sunday School efforts in the past year.

REV. W. H. BRODHEAD :

In our conventions there were many questions asked in regard to the work of our State Secretary. The impression was prevalent that one year would be the test, and that at the end of the year, the State ought to show a sufficient degree of work accomplished, to justify them in calling for the money. The idea that it would take two or three years has not found any wide circulation, it was limited to very few. I think if there should be some way devised by the committee or Association, to send to the County Conventions and the Sabbath Schools of the State, some brief report of these meetings, the people would know what the State Secretary was doing. The people in Newark and Elizabeth did not know what he was doing when he was spending his time in the southern part of the State. I want to raise my voice against people talking of this as an experiment. The wisdom of the State Association says it is a success. It is going to be carried forward ; we are committed to it, and we are going to endorse it, not only by our prayers but our contributions. I hold that the Executive Committee ought to be so instructed by the convention, that they can take up this matter so that the Secretary may not have to give a thought about raising his salary. It ought to be paid to him regularly.

REV. L. T. SHULER :

I do not think it is right to send MR. CLARK out, as he has been sent out the last year, to get up his own salary. If I am a minister, and employed by a congregation, I do not propose to go around among them and collect my salary month by month. If I do that, it very materially affects my usefulness:

REV. W. HARRIS :

BROTHER CLARK has had an extra amount of work to do. I generally do the work committed to me, but I was so overwhelmed with work, that my life was in danger, and I have to drop everything and go abroad, and I have thrown more of this work upon the Secretary than he ought to have done. I hope the Executive Committee will relieve him of some of this burden.

REV. J. M. McNULTY :

What is the salary ?

REV. C. H. POOLE, President ;

\$1,500.

REV. J. M. McNULTY :

I ask that in order that it may be known what the salary is, for the impression has gone out that it is \$2,000. I would be glad if it was \$3,000. I have not been in a position, as I would like to have been, to testify here in regard to this work. I take it upon faith. From what I have seen of BROTHER CLARK, I am well satisfied with his work, and his work will tell every time. I hope the time will come when we, in our section of the country, will realize for ourselves the importance of the work he is doing

REV. C. NOBLE, of Woodbridge :

To leave the matter, as BROTHER CLARK expressed it this morning, that the work should go on or not according as contributions should come in, is leaving it in entirely too indefinite a way. If we vote to provide this course of action, we are to support this missionary for the next three years. We should look this matter more closely in the face and see what reason we have to expect this salary will be raised. I do not like to put any man in the position that his salary may drop away from him at any time and he be left at sea.

REV. MR. LONG, of Warren County :

I think it is fitting that the northern part of the State be heard from in reference to these matters. There are very few of the Warren County brethren here, and this matter does not run at fever heat up our way. This is the reason, in Warren County pastoral charges join almost entirely over the whole county. The Pastors of Warren County are interested in Sunday School work, and there are large numbers of Christian brethren, various office-holders, and members of churches who are well up in this matter, and we do not need any missionary up there. Our people are largely farmers, and they have confidence in their leaders in Christian work, and when they are called upon for money to sustain a special man to do missionary Sunday School work, they do not understand it, and they do not see why it should be considered necessary. There is great conservatism in our county. I think it is only fair to BROTHER CLARK that this matter should be fairly presented. I speak in good faith, as a representative from Warren County, and I say I shall sustain this movement and do what I can to influence the brethren to stand by it, with the understanding that the "Pines" need enlightenment and help, and there are other regions somewhat like the "Pines." We are not doing this for ourselves, it is a missionary matter. There should be some special clause stating that so long as BROTHER CLARK labors his salary is sure. He is engaged so long as money shall come in to pay him. About \$1,800 was the expense of last year, including traveling and other expenses. Now, if at the end of another year this \$1,800 is not coming, is BROTHER CLARK to lose what is lacking? There ought to be some clause that when the stop is made his arrears shall be sure.

REV. W. HARRIS :

Allow me to explain. There are two or three men in this place, who do

not propose that BROTHER CLARK shall be out of pocket by the failure of any one year. We are not in a position to pledge the support of the Sunday School to any enterprise whatever. BROTHER CLARK has faith in this thing, and he is willing to accept the situation. We consider that the next year will be the crucial year in the matter of finances, and if the schools do not come forward to sustain this enterprise some of us must make up the deficiency.

DR. FREEMAN:

I understand the object of this experiment to be twofold; first, there is a missionary aspect by which the children can be gathered into schools, and weak places can be helped. Second, there is what might be called the normal side of the question entirely distinct from the missionary. I understand the Secretary helps our County Conventions, our township meetings, our District Conventions. If I understand the matter rightly, this whole movement is tentative. For many years we have had conventions that were anniversaries. This year we have what we regard as a representative convention, every county sending the proper number of representatives. During last year five District Conventions were held in lieu of the one large meeting. I suppose the idea was that there would be a larger influence exerted than in one annual meeting. I regret, very much, that when the reports came from these District Conventions they were not more complete. We would like to know, when they met, how many were there, who spoke, and what they talked about.

In most of our counties and townships a man of the experience of BROTHER CLARK would be of great value in holding conventions and normal institutes. The aspect seems hopeful, and to stop now would be to stop in the midst of an experiment, while to go on would be to settle the question once for all.

REV. J. LE FEVRE, of Somerset:

We are perfectly safe in adopting this resolution. We leave this matter in the hands of the Executive Committee.

The resolution under discussion was then adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

The Committee on Resolutions presented the following for adoption:

RESOLUTIONS.

1.—*Whereas*, The results of the work of the past year, under the revised Constitution, have fully equalled our most sanguine hopes; therefore

Resolved, That we endorse the work thus done, and recommend its vigorous prosecution on the same plan, until the next meeting of this convention.

2.—*Resolved*, That the future purity and strength of the church and the success of Christianity are intimately connected with the systematic and devout study of the word of God.

3.—We recommend that each Sunday School in the State have some organization for the regular and systematic instruction of the children in regard to the evils of intemperance.

4.—*Resolved*, That we heartily endorse the Foreign Sunday School Association, and cordially commend its work to the sympathy and support of the Christian people of our own State.

5.—*Whereas*, The Monmouth County Sunday School Association has recommended this convention to take active measures to forward the organization of a Seaside Assembly at Key East, in this State, for the purpose of furthering the Sunday School cause; therefore

Resolved, That we regard favorably this enterprise as well calculated to further the interest of the Sunday School work in this State.

6.—*Resolved*, That, after due investigation, we do not recognize as valid the claim of the International Association for a sum of money said to have been pledged to that Association at its last session in Toronto.

7.—*Resolved*, That we express our appreciation of and thanks for the valuable addresses of the REV. DRS. JOHN HALL, J. M. FREEMAN and TALBOT W. CHAMBERS.

8.—*Resolved*, That we tender the thanks of this convention to the Pastor and session of the Third Presbyterian Church for the use of their house of worship, and to DR. H. F. GILMOUR, of Winonah, and assistants, for their valuable contribution of song.

J. M. MEEKER,	} Committee.	J. KERSHAW,
R. W. PERKINS,		S. S. MIDDLETON,
A. H. LEWIS,		J. A. DEMAREST.

After an extended discussion, the following substitute for the fifth resolution was adopted, and the report of the Committee thus amended, *adopted*:

Resolved, That we regard favorably any enterprise calculated to further the interests of Sunday School work in this State, but we are not sufficiently informed as to this particular movement, to give it our endorsement.

A conference was then held on "The Needs of the Hour." In the absence of the leader to whom the topic was assigned, the Corresponding Secretary, by vote of the convention, conducted the conference.

On motion, the following resolution was considered and *adopted*:

The Corresponding Secretary announced the death of several prominent Sunday School workers during the past year. The two Secretaries of the Convention were directed to prepare proper notice, *in memoriam*, for publication. [The notice will be found at the close of this report.]

The Committee on Enrollment, presented, through its Chairman, H. L. TITUS, the following report:

REPORT.

There have been present, as accredited representatives to this convention from County Associations, 94 delegates, as follows:

Atlantic	3	Middlesex	4
Bergen	6	Monmouth.....	3
Burlington.....	9	Morris.	5
Camden	7	Ocean	2
Cumberland	4	Passaic	5
Essex	3	Salem	1
Gloucester.....	4	Somerset.....	7
Hudson	4	Sussex.	1
Hunterdon.....	6	Union	6
Mercer.....	8	Warren.....	5

There have also been enrolled, as visiting delegates, Pastors, 71; Superintendents, 16; Teachers, 51; Scholars, 11. Total in attendance, 242.

H. L. TITUS,
V. M. W. SUYDAM, } Committee.
S. K. DOOLITTLE,

The report of the Committee on Rules of Order was presented by REV. J. M. McNULTY, as follows:

The Committee on Rules of Order would report, that after consideration of the matter, they suggest the adoption of this resolution:

Resolved, That this State Sunday School Convention adopt what is known as the "Roberts' Manual of Order," so far as applicable to the ecclesiastical proceedings, for the parliamentary regulation of its triennial meetings.

JOSEPH M. McNULTY, }
A. H. LEWIS, } Committee.
J. W. COSAD,

The report of the Committee on Nominations was presented by W. F. WILSON, of Vineland, as follows:

President,

REV. JESSE LYMAN HURLBURT, D. D., Plainfield.

Vice-Presidents,

First District—REV. L. T. SHULER, Paterson.

Second District—REV. P. M. DOOLITTLE, North Branch.

Third District—RUSSEL W. WOODWARD, Elizabeth.

Fourth District—REV. GEO. W. SWAIN, Allentown.

Fifth District—REV. A. JUDSON PIERSON, Woodbury.

Corresponding Secretary,

REV. SAMUEL W. CLARK, Jersey City.

Recording Secretary,

WILLIAM T. PLUME, Brick Church.

Treasurer,

WALTER M. PATTON, Camden.

The report of the Committee was accepted, and the officers therein named declared, by vote of the convention, unanimously elected.

The Committee also reported the following names for the remaining officers of the convention, being the nominations to the same made by the respective County Associations. On motion, they were unanimously approved :

COUNTY.	STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.	COUNTY SECRETARIES.
Atlantic County,	Z. U. MATTHEWS,	J. B. WRIGHT,
Bergen County,	J. A. DEMAREST,	PROF. W. WILLIAMS,
Burlington County,	DANIEL F. GIBBS,	REV. O. A. KERR,
Camden County,	H. L. TITUS,	HENRY G. SMITH,
Cape May County,	DR. J. F. LEAMING,	HENRY W. HAND,
Cumberland County,	DR. C. C. PHILLIPS,	WILBUR F. WILSON,
Essex County,	REV. W. H. BRODHEAD,	GEO. T. MOORE,
Gloucester County,	W. H. BODINE,	JOHN C. TATUM,
Hudson County,	E. S. COWLES,	JAS. V. FORSTER,
Hunterdon County,	REV. C. H. TRAVER,	REV. D. M. MATTHEWS,
Mercer County,	REV. W. HARRIS,	U. B. TITUS,
Middlesex County,	REV. J. M. McNULTY,	WM. EDGAR,
Monmouth County,	REV. E. HEWITT,	GEO. E. RIGHTER,
Morris County,	REV. I. W. COCHRAN,	REV. J. K. MANNING,
Ocean County,	S. F. BLACKMAN,	REV. W. C. BRITAIN,
Passaic County,	W. H. H. STRYKER,	W. H. H. STRYKER,
Salem County,	JOSEPH R. LIPPINCOTT,	JOS. R. LIPPINCOTT,
Somerset County,	REV. JNO. KERSHAW,	REV. J. LE FEVRE,
Sussex County,	W. H. HART,	ERNEST HUSTON,
Union County,	REV. A. H. LEWIS,	JAMES H. DURAND,
Warren County,	J. C. ALLEN.	HON. C. H. ALBERTSON.

On motion of REV. W. H. BRODHEAD, the section of the Constitution relating to officers, was altered so as to read "These officers and members of the Executive Committee to be nominated by the County Convention, shall be elected tri-annually, *with the exception of the Vice-Presidents, who shall be elected by the several District Conventions at their annual meetings.*"

The Corresponding Secretary, was, by vote, authorized to call together the Executive Committee for organization.

After singing "Sowing in the Morning, Sowing Seeds of Kindness," prayer was offered by REV. P. GIBBS, of Somerset, and the Twenty-sixth Convention of the NEW JERSEY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, was declared closed.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1883.

Dr.		Cr.
Balance as per last report	\$192 84	
Collections at County Meetings	\$98 79	S. W. Clark, Cor. Secy., Salary.....\$1,500 00
at District Conventions	108 27	Traveling Expenses..... 298 12
at Bridgeton	23 70	Postage..... 72 21
Atlantic County, 1882	8 00	Express and Telegrams..... 6 03
" 1883	40 00	Incidentals..... 21 06
" 1882	25 00	Printing, Shmickson Chew..... 100 00
Bergen " 1883	25 00	Evening Journal Association..... 60 00
Burlington " 1882	25 00	" " "..... 176 75
" 1883	125 00	Fitzgerald & Stuckett..... 2 00
Camden " 1883	130 00	Ware Bros..... 16 00
Cape May " 1883	30 00	Expenses, District Conventions..... 106 40
Cumberland " 1882	120 00	H. G. Smith, Reporting Convention Proceedings at
Essex " 1882, additional	25 00	Bridgeton..... 10 00
" 1883	25 00	Telegram to Kansas State Convention..... 2 19
Gloucester " 1882	125 00	Expenses of Music at Convention, Trenton..... 15 00
" 1883	125 00	A. E. Irwin, Stenographer, "..... 25 00
Hudson " 1883 (in part)	60 00	Traveling Expenses, Speakers:
Hunterdon " 1883	75 00	Rev. J. M. Freeman.....\$2 50
Mercer " 1883	40 15	" John Hall..... 5 00
Middlesex " 1882-3	80 44	" T. W. Chambers..... 5 00
Monmouth " 1883	100 00	Traveling Expenses, Executive Committee:
Morris " 1882	40 00	J. B. Pudney.....\$5 75
" 1883 (in part)	50 00	A. H. Lewis..... 6 60
Ocean " 1883	24 06	W. M. Patton..... 2 50
Passaic " 1882	110 00	Sexton, State Convention, Trenton..... 3 00
Salem " 1883	35 00	Balance in Treasury..... 75 14
" 1883	75 00	
Somerset " 1882	50 00	
" 1883	110 00	
Sussex " 1883	50 00	
Union " 1883	125 00	
Warren " 1883	110 00	
	2,062 65	
	\$2,486 25	

W. M. FATTON, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct, as per vouchers.

R. LAMB,

E. DEY,

J. N. TURNER,

Auditing Committee

TABULAR REPORT FOR 1883
OF THE
SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
TO ACCOMPANY CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

COUNTIES.	POPULATION			SCHOOLS.						MEMBERSHIP.						FINANCIAL.					
	From Census, 1880.	Between 5 and 18.	Total No.	No. Report.	Union.	Open all the Year.	Officers.	Teachers.	Total Number Officers and Teachers.	Scholars Enrolled.	Total Membership of School.	Average Attendance.	Over 18 Years of Age.	Under 5 Years of Age.	S. S. Scholars of School Age.	No. of Conversions.	Volumes in Library	No. of Temperance Organizations.	Raised for Benevo- lence.	Paid for County and State Work.	
Atlantic.....	18,704	5,405	43	36	7	35	162	202	438	2,521	2,059	2,081	380	194	1,947	92	4,344	1	\$366	63	\$56
Bergen*.....	35,486	10,688	87	87	14	87	305	656	978	6,059	7,012	4,185	730	544	4,785	93	14,448	1	2,618	40	86
Burlington.....	19,388	136	113	113	10	103	520	1,238	1,748	9,668	11,351	6,218	826	280	8,497	291	23,000	5	1,707	91	177
Camden.....	62,942	18,359	32	32	4	51	541	1,133	1,608	11,976	13,884	9,047	2,643	1,803	7,598	478	22,651	6	1,988	73	183
Cape May.....	9,765	2,068	35	35	4	36	165	272	430	1,663	2,383	1,512	585	185	1,193	113	9,333	5	513	95	19
Cumberland.....	180,929	51,179	97	97	14	90	541	1,172	1,713	10,180	11,543	8,452	3,498	880	5,752	715	14,338	2	2,501	68	146
Essex.....	180,329	51,128	145	145	10	132	814	1,967	3,807	28,700	32,597	21,934	5,513	3,232	19,565	633	51,308	8	13,855	87	389
Gloucester.....	23,886	7,348	15	15	5	65	434	588	984	5,539	6,503	4,297	872	374	4,297	231	11,377	1	884	27	188
Hudson.....	181,944	72,378	135	135	9	67	623	2,178	2,745	24,143	26,888	18,686	2,394	374	4,297	491	37,511	2	781	92	253
Hunterdon.....	98,670	16,929	58	58	9	67	416	1,025	1,446	8,416	9,882	5,175	1,442	405	10,174	118	16,587	1	879	91	96
Mercer.....	98,670	16,929	100	100	88	70	366	875	1,241	8,976	10,411	6,185	1,438	635	6,913	215	25,575	5	5,493	06	109
Middlesex.....	92,880	14,440	90	90	26	70	382	1,030	1,389	8,505	9,884	6,348	1,030	1,389	6,086	325	21,809	2	2,116	29	109
Monmouth.....	56,324	11,640	132	117	4	87	516	1,013	1,529	8,882	10,411	6,879	1,501	1,752	7,519	313	18,833	7	1,809	42	107
Morris*.....	30,983	14,434	119	119	22	110	481	1,018	1,613	11,613	11,716	7,537	1,632	412	7,519	363	24,472	2	2,769	46	289
Ocean.....	14,860	4,435	52	44	4	41	162	200	452	2,632	3,074	1,928	230	186	2,176	26	5,470	1	2,065	46	108
Passaic.....	48,860	23,387	79	79	9	57	57	1,065	1,376	11,559	12,915	8,358	1,280	373	9,230	373	14,510	7	2,065	46	108
Salem.....	21,479	7,939	64	53	21	50	293	560	815	5,044	4,859	3,304	1,506	463	4,075	206	17,377	3	1,173	25	113
Somerset.....	27,492	7,575	86	82	2	58	58	905	1,297	5,670	6,397	4,387	1,806	470	3,394	202	17,215	4	1,842	37	201
Sussex.....	24,233	6,698	69	66	13	84	301	460	705	3,395	4,700	2,843	733	252	2,960	136	10,168	3	1,191	73	77
Union.....	74,471	15,638	84	66	69	65	587	1,313	1,928	10,809	12,737	8,262	1,776	809	8,234	296	21,753	3	4,749	83	96
Warren.....	36,380	10,397	87	78	7	69	347	873	1,172	8,093	9,265	5,643	1,488	372	6,233	397	28,477	6	8,079	07	60
Total.....	1,131,116	349,342	1,888	1,743	239	1,490	8,619	21,140	29,419	191,748	221,147	146,681	33,389	17,227	141,182	6,176	405,770	73	\$33,992	29	\$2,819
P. E. Sch. non-rep. Est.	74	74	74	74	4	1,490	8,619	21,140	29,419	191,748	221,147	146,681	33,389	17,227	141,182	6,176	405,770	73	\$33,992	29	\$2,819
Grand total.....	1,131,116	349,342	1,962	1,817	229	1,490	8,619	21,140	29,419	191,748	221,147	146,681	33,389	17,227	141,182	6,176	405,770	73	\$33,992	29	\$2,819

* 14 schools from report of 1882.

† 3 townships from last report.

‡ From Diocesan Reports.

|| Estimated.

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In Memoriam.

Peter A. Voorhees,

—OF—

FRANKLIN PARK, N. J.

Died March 9th, 1883.

MR. VOORHEES was one of the founders of the New Jersey Sunday School Association, and, up to the time of his death, had never been absent from its sessions. For fifty-six years an earnest and efficient Sunday School teacher, his heart at eighty was as warmly devoted as ever to the cause of which he was an ardent promoter, both at home and abroad. He was Township Secretary of Hillsborough Township, in Somerset County, for many years, acting in that capacity to the time of his death, and was, in 1865, elected Vice-President of the State Association, being re-elected each year until 1868, when he was elected President of the Association, presiding over its annual convention at Salem in 1869.

He was for many years Sheriff of Somerset County, and at one time represented that county in the Assembly. His long life of good works and public service won for him the good will and respect of the entire community. His loss to the religious interests of the county is very great, and his earnest councils and ever present sympathy will long be missed by the Sunday School workers of his own and neighboring counties and the entire State.

Asa L. Curtis,

—OF—

CAMDEN, N. J.

Died February 23d, 1883.

MR. CURTIS was an earnest Sunday School worker, for some years Superintendent of the Sunday School of the First Presbyterian Church, Camden, of which he was an exemplary and efficient member. He was very much beloved by his school, over which he exercised an influence almost paternal. He was an earnest promoter of associated work among Christian laborers, and was, at the time of his death, President of the Camden County Sunday School Association, Elder of the Church of which he was a Member, Superintendent of the Sunday School, and one of the Directors of the Camden Young Men's Christian Association. He fell in the midst of his labors, leaving behind him the fragrance of a devoted, cheerful Christian service.