

rounding country. In the afternoon Bro. Isaac Errett preached an excellent sermon. His sermon was followed by a scholarly address by President W. K. Pendleton. "Science and Religion" was the theme which furnished entertainment and instruction to the audience.

The evening session was wholly occupied by James G. Encell, now of South Bend, Indiana.

With Bro. Encell's lecture the Ministerial Association closed its work for this year. I did not learn whether an arrangement was made for another meeting or not.

But I must now speak of the last of the series of meetings held at Island Park.

The General Christian Sunday-school Association is a new candidate for the favor of the Sunday-school brotherhood of the churches of Christ. For several years there has been a sentiment growing up that our great mass conventions are not wholly adequate to the needs of our Sunday-school workers. It is very pleasant for a speaker to greet a large and enthusiastic audience and carry them away on the wings of his eloquence, but after all it amounts to but little in the "long run." "Strains of lofty eloquence" do very well occasionally, but they make sad havoc sometimes with those who do not need enthusiasm, but sense. Nearly all of the State Associations are compelled to look after the matter of ways and means to prosecute their work, and but little time can be devoted to the educational questions which must be considered and understood in order to any real progress.

The General Christian Sunday-school Association is an attempt to realize this educational feature, as it has never yet been realized among the members of the churches of Christ.

The history of the movement is briefly as follows: The "General Christian Sunday-school Association" was formally organized August 11, 1882, at "Island Park," Indiana.

There were representatives present from Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania and Mississippi.

A temporary organization was formed, with S. P. Lucy as Chairman, and J. H. Hardin as Secretary.

In introducing the report of the Committee on Permanent Organization, F. M. Green, Chairman, made the following statements: "This meeting of representative Sunday-

school workers from various States is in response to the request of a conference which was held in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, March 30-31, 1882, at which there were present S. P. Lucy, C. C. Cline and P. H. Duncan, from Kentucky; L. L. Carpenter, from Indiana; J. H. Hardin, from Missouri; Knox P. Taylor, from Illinois; and F. M. Green, from Ohio, besides others from Indianapolis and vicinity. That meeting had its origin in a call previously made by brethren Lucy, Cline and others, who desired such a conference. When these brethren came together for their conference, they organized with S. P. Lucy as Chairman, and J. H. Hardin as Secretary.

"Three questions were present for consideration and action:

"1. Is a general Sunday-school association desirable? This question was thoroughly considered, and was decided in the affirmative.

"2. If such an association is desirable, is it practicable? This question was also answered in the affirmative.

"3. Shall this conference do anything to realize this desirable and practical object? To this third question the following answer was given:

"(a) A committee was appointed, of which S. P. Lucy was chairman, to prepare a programme for a general meeting of Sunday school workers. The work of that committee resulted in the programme of exercises for this meeting at Island Park.

"(b) A Committee on Organization was appointed, consisting of F. M. Green, of Ohio; L. L. Carpenter, of Indiana; and J. H. Hardin, of Missouri, who were to report on the question assigned to them at the first general meeting.

"(c) Responding to the invitation of the Christian Sunday-school Association of Indiana, it was decided to hold the first general meeting at Island Park, in August, 1882."

This, briefly, is the history of this movement up to the date of permanent organization.

The following persons were chosen to serve the Association during the sessions at Island Park: President, S. P. Lucy; Vice President, N. S. Haynes; and Secretary, J. H. Hardin.

The following is the programme of exercises, as it was presented succeeding the organization:

1. Two lectures on the "Geography of Palestine," by Prof. John W.

McGarvey, of Kentucky.

2. Two lectures on "Lessons from the History of Sunday-school Work," by J. M. Atwater, of Ohio.

3. Two addresses on "The Sunday-school Library," by J. W. Monser, of Missouri.

4. An address on the "Relation of the Church to the Sunday school," by N. S. Haynes, of Illinois.

5. An address on the "Scope and Purpose of our Sunday-school Missions in the Several States," by J. H. Hardin, of Missouri.

6. An address on "Music in the Sunday-school," by C. C. Cline, of Kentucky.

The programme was interspersed with discussions and the business of the Association.

The purpose of the Association is defined in general terms by the constitution which was adopted. Specifically, its purpose is educational.

The work of the Association is expected to be of permanent value to the Sunday-school, because the thoughts presented by those who may address it are good, and worthy of life. This feature of the Association can not be too strongly emphasized. Sufficient experience has now been had by the great company of faithful Sunday school workers among ourselves and others to entirely justify the expectation that what is now done shall be done in wisdom and knowledge. The lectures and addresses at Island Park were fair samples of what can be done and of what ought to be done, so far as faithful and intelligent preparation and skillful presentation of subjects are concerned.

The Association starts out with an excellent and wide-spread public sentiment in its favor. It has at this writing (August 18) seventy-five members; and nearly all of these have paid their membership fee. Its membership is not now, neither is it desirable that it should ever be, confined to preachers. The "laymen" already among its membership are not a few, and of Christian women there are quite a number. It is not a preachers' association; but an association, rather, where every workman in the church, of whatever class, may find a hearty welcome.

Sunday, August 13, I spent in Indianapolis, preaching morning and evening at the Central church. In the afternoon, with Bro. S. J. Tomlinson, I went to hear the "Mountain Evangelist," Rev. G. O. Barnes, preach to the children.

On my way to Indianapolis, I stopped for a little while at Richmond, Ind., and called on Bro. J. L. Parsons. I had but little time to inquire in regard to the church in Richmond, but I judge, from what I did learn, that its struggles for success are not yet ended.

On my arrival at Cincinnati, I was glad to meet and to greet Thomas Murrell, fresh from the field in Kentucky, and the beloved J. H. Garrison, just home from England.

If any complaint is made concerning this letter, I am sure that it will not be because it is too short.

F. M. GREEN.

A Speck of Pollution.

We read last week of a gentleman who was bitten by a fly. He was sitting in a chair when the fly lighted on his arm. Feeling the sting he brushed the fly away and thought no more about the matter. Shortly the arm became painful and swelled, and the man became seriously ill. The only explanation that the physician could give was that the fly had probably been at some tainted meat, and at the moment of biting the arm left a little of the pollution in the flesh.

The human body is very intolerant of any pollution within the system. Boils or the symptoms of blood poisoning speedily follow its introduction, and health is not restored till it be expelled. A physician of this State a year ago allowed a knife which had been used in the examination of a corpse to slip and cut his finger; he is hardly well yet from the blood poisoning which resulted.

It may well be that God has designed this sensitiveness of the body to the presence of anything that savors of decay, to teach us the necessity of purity of the soul. The injury done to the soul by the slightest pollution may not be so evident, but is it not as real? The taint may be communicated to the soul as easily, as unsuspectedly as in the bite of a fly. Let us be on our guard.—*Christian Observer*.

The simple pleasures of home are sweetest and last longest. Happy the man who is never so happy as when he opens the Bible to read and pray with his wife and children, or sits at his own table the chief figures in the eyes of those who surround him. Happy, we say is such a man if, when he looks into the eyes of such a circle, he forgets himself in his love for them. The church life of such a family is really part of its home life.—*Christian Advocate*.