

ADDRESS OF WELCOME “Praise Day”

(London, August 2nd to 5th, by Brother J. Hemery, 1912 Convention Report, page 346.)

Dear brethren, as I look round on you all, assembled here in Convention in our Tabernacle, I think of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and how the Lord said to Moses that it was to be a meeting place between the children of Israel and Himself. Our Scottish friends have a word which to me is a very beautiful one—the word “tryst.” Very often in olden times it was used in connection with lovers. They arranged to meet at a certain place and this was called a “trysting place.” Now, my brethren, our Lord has a “tryst” with us today. We have an engagement with Him and He has an engagement with us. It is not all on our side. We may say, Well we have come here and we are going to call upon the Lord to bless us. That’s true, but the Lord has an engagement with us too, because, you see, He so arranges His matters, His affairs that He has meetings for His people here and there, now and again, and if through His guiding providence we have heard of this convention and we have come, some from one place, some from another, then these meetings, my dear brethren, are not “tryst” with the Lord. He said, Now I will meet you there, and here we are to meet Him. Now you know when two lovers have a tryst one with another, how as one is coming to the trysting place and the other is coming, how both hearts would be stirred, emotions would be moved, and minds would be occupied. Minds would be all alive with what they were going to talk about, and that would be in both cases. Now, our Lord knows all He has for us. *We* do not know, but I trust that we are both ready in our hearts to receive, and that our minds are all susceptible to the influences of the Holy Spirit. We are glad that it is our Lord with whom we meet, and through Him our great God whom we meet this day. Now let us look out for a blessing. The Lord said to Moses, to Israel, that He would meet them at the Tabernacle and I think He said that to us today, and that He would not only meet with us today, but tomorrow and Sunday and Monday, and that we would have a really blessed and happy time together.

The Lord is giving great blessings to His people at this time and nearly always through the gathering together. A little while ago He began to give us the knowledge of the Truth and naturally brought us to those of like precious faith, and here and there, not only in Britain but in America—in America earlier than in Britain, and now all over the world, little classes have been gathered together, those of like precious faith, and the Lord has met with them every time. Never a little meeting but the Lord has been there. I dare say it may have been that sometimes the Lord’s people have gone to a meeting and have gone back without a blessing but that was not God’s fault. It was theirs.

These meetings have been going on for quite a few years now and what a joy it has been now in the day of unrest to find one or two or three, or thirty or forty, sometimes three to

four hundred, whose hearts are towards God and whose minds are set on the Word of God and who desire to know more about Him! What a blessing that has been. There are quite a few left out who have not this privilege. They don't know we have it. If they did they would want to be with us. We have a great privilege in being gathered into the circle of His Truth.

Now, of late years He has been doing something else. Not only has He been gathering His people into little classes where each would want to study the Bible and the will of God with each other, but he has been arranging these Conventions. We wondered about them at first; we wondered just what great object there might be behind them. But see how they are becoming more numerous and greater numbers are attending them and greater blessings seem to come all the time. I feel pretty sure it is the Lord who is giving us an opportunity of knowing one another before He gathers us into the kingdom. If what we understand is true we will have to live with one another for a long, long time. Now we need to shape ourselves up one with another; we need to learn the blessedness of fellowship that we might enjoy it to the full by and by, and God is going to give us a good deal of that this time. I feel sure, as has already been expressed, that we are going to have a rich time of blessing, not only directly from our Lord through the holy spirit illuminating the Word, but by learning of one another and learning the faith and hope that each other has, and learning something of the trials and difficulties that the other has had, that we may share both in the joys and in the sorrows.

Now we will need to continue to pray that the Lord's blessing might be with us. We have prayed earnestly, but we need to keep on praying that our hearts may be kept receptive. We might get a little trial, a little hurt, and we might possibly forget that we were the Lord's people gathered together in this way, but if we keep praying and watching for blessings all the time, oh my dear brethren we shall have such a feast that the Lord has never yet poured out on us. I think He has already begun. I cannot tell you how great a joy there was to note the absence of restraint in the testimonies we have just heard and to feel that you had got hold of the promises of God, and I believe God has begun to pour out His blessing, and as our brethren speak to us on these things, of Holiness of Heart, Holiness of Conduct, of Tongue and of Thoughts, we shall get still further blessed.