

INTERVALE CONVENTION

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You ask me what I think of Intervale Convention? I think it is a glorious place for rest, refreshment, and health, both of body and soul. First, the situation is magnificent. It is an enchanting and enchanted spot. Intervale is a holy tabernacle of hills and clouds, of trees and foliage. It is always full of pictures. By day when the golden sunlight rests upon valley and mountainside, around you glen, ravine, forest, all in summer green, with bubbling springs and singing brooks and silent pools full of dappled shadows; in the foreground the Saco river and meadows of loveliness, with gentle undulations like the waves of the sea; and in the background the vast bulk of the nearer mountains, with their white ledges and dark green surfaces: while rising over all, in bold clear outlines, is the great presidential group of the White mountains, with Washington, the coroneted king of all this mountain land. By night, when the stars shine out and the moon reigns queen over all the silent landscape; in the early morn, when the mists and clouds wreath themselves around the giant masses of stone, and form their ever varying panoramas of loveliness; and at eventide, when the atmospheric effects become marvelously exquisite, while from afar the fragrant fields send up their incense to the skies. In storm, when the thunder breaks and crashes from his cloud and strikes his lightning overhead, while mountain calls to mountain; and in calm, when every object is touched with glory, the adorned earth looks fair in the grandeur of brooks, vales, and soaring mountain peaks. At all times it is a perpetual feast of beauty.

How charming the open air services, when with the voices of the worshippers mingle the notes of the wildwood birds trilling their lays overheard among the trees, while the invisible breath "That sways the green tops, fans the spirit With the thought of boundless power And inaccessible majesty:" A regular camp meeting, you say. Yes, but a camp meeting at its best, with no distracting and dissipating influences, where everything is subordinated to the "worship of the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

What of the preaching? It is unique. There is no starrng. It is unpretentious, spiritual, tender, full of love, strong in Apostolic faith, filled with the true "enthusiasm of humanity." It is fresh and simple, deep and penetrating, not intellectual so truly as spiritual, and accompanied with the unction and affluent life of the Holy Ghost. The social services and testimony-meetings are most inspiring and helpful. Dr. Cullis is a born leader. Under his hand no meeting ever lags in interest. At one service of prayer we noticed, besides special requests, the following general requests: thirty-three for healing, sixty-two for conversion, thirty-eight for sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, thirteen for cases of domestic trouble, nine for the removal of the appetite for tobacco and strong drink. Eleven returned thanks for answered prayer. What testimonies!

A brother said "I was born in a racket and a racket was born in me, but the devil has gone out of business in my heart. Christ has become my life, and He keeps me in perfect peace." A sister reported "I thank God for peace, not for no cares, but not caring. Not for no trouble, but not troubling!" Another said "I am living not under the economy of grace, but under the prodigality of grace." Yet another said "I lift up Jesus in His fullness, and when the people ask `Is this

perfection?' I go to the words of St. Paul 'I live, yet not I, Christ liveth in me,' and if Christ lives in me it can not be a bad life."

This is a FAITH Convention because it is continually emphasized that there is nothing that God values so much as faith; that "this is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He has sent and that "all things are possible to him that believeth" and that God's abundant promises are not fully realized in the soul because of unbelief. All experience is built upon the solid rock of God's immutable Word. That is taken as the sole authority and guide. And while there are professing Christians who deride and denounce this experience of full salvation under whatever name it is called: Sanctification, Holiness, The Rest of Faith, Perfect Love, Christian Perfection, The Higher Life, The Baptism of the Holy Ghost; yet there is not one who dare deny that the standard of religious life among God's children is not far below that set before us in the gospel, far below that enjoined in the Word of God. Why such a disparity between the grace provided in Jesus Christ and that possessed by us? No doubt of this, that it is "the will of God even our sanctification," that we should be "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust, and that, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we should serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life." Thank God for the Intervale Convention, which gives prominence to this rich gospel blessing as a doctrine and an experience.

Another characteristic of the Convention is that it is interdenominational. Episcopalians and Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, and Friends meet together on the platform or in the auditorium in blissful unconsciousness of all denominational relations. " Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

I had the privilege of attending the Congress of the Evangelical Alliance in New York, when the representation of the best thought, highest culture, and ripest scholarship met together under the shining banners of our Western civilization for the purpose of manifesting Protestant unity. Intervale Convention emphasizes the same blessed fact, the unity of Christian faith and Christian life. Blessed mount of communion! "A mountain apart."

"Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins and made us kings and priests unto God, by His blood, unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and present us faultless before His throne with exceeding great joy, unto Him be glory and honor and adoration and power, both now and for ever."

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