

[A Sunday School Convention was held at Battle Creek, Mich., on the 2d and 3d of June. On the day last named, a children's mass-meeting was held at the Methodist church, addressed by Messrs. Stebbins, Taylor, Gallup, Pardee, and Van Meter. The *Battle Creek Journal* proceeds:]

AFTER the several speakers had spoken, a clear, distinct voice, came from toward the head of the stairs, saying, "Is there an opportunity now that I might say a few words?" The moderator seemed for a moment as if hesitating to grant the opportunity, as perhaps he did not know the speaker. Seeing the dilemma of the moderator and speaker, Rev. T. W. Jones arose, and addressed the moderator, said that the speaker was "Sojourner Truth." This was enough; five hundred persons were instantly on their feet, prepared to give the most earnest and respectful attention to her who was once but a slave. Had Henry Ward Beecher, or any other such renowned man's name been mentioned, it is doubtful whether it would have produced the electrical effect on the audience that her name did. She said that the Spirit of the Lord had told her to avail herself of the opportunity of speaking to so many children assembled together of the great sin of prejudice against color. "Children," she said, "who made your skin white? Was it not God? Who made mine black? Was it not the same God? Am I to blame, therefore, because my skin is black? Does it not cast a reproach on our Maker to despise a part of his children because he has been pleased to give them a black skin? Indeed, children, it does; and your teachers ought to tell you so, and root up, if possible, the great sin of prejudice against color from your minds. While

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Sabbath-school teachers know of this great sin, and not only do not teach their pupils that it is a sin, but too often indulge in it themselves, can they expect God to bless them or the children? Does not God love colored children as well as white children? and did not the same Savior die to save the one as well as the other? If so, white children must know that if they go to heaven they must go there without their prejudice against color, for in heaven black and white are one in the love of Jesus. Now, children, remember what Sojourner Truth has told you, and thus get rid of your prejudice and learn to love colored children that you may be all the children of your Father who is in heaven."

This short speech from Sojourner was, perhaps, the most telling anti-slavery speech that was ever delivered at Battle Creek or in Michigan. Scores of eyes were filled with tears, and it seems as if every individual present sanctioned all she said. And how could any one help it? for surely if there were any present whose hearts failed to beat in sympathy with her remarks, they must be a good distance from the kingdom of heaven, whatever their profession may be.

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