

REPORT

For the year ended 31st August, 1882.

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INTRODUCTION.

Evolutionists would have us believe that the several bodily faculties which we possess have been added one by one as the necessity for their existence arose. This is a mode of creation of man that it requires special light—or special darkness, as the case may be—to comprehend, but certain it is that many existing practices and institutions have been evolved in just such a way. Especially is this true of the Young Men's Christian Association. Within the last half-century there has been a rapid growth of the feeling that Christian work should not be left entirely to those in official position in the church, but that an incumbent duty is resting upon every individual Christian to do something to show his love for the Redeemer, and for those who as yet know him not, and also to evidence the sincerity of his faith. Thus the broad, evangelical platform of the Young Men's Christian Association was formed, a platform upon which Christians of every name may stand side by side, to cultivate and exercise their spiritual faculties, and to do organized and effective work with a view to bringing others into the enjoyment of the blessings and privileges which are theirs. Christian life will ever remain at a very low point unless there is spiritual activity; and the many opportunities afforded for this activity in the associations have served to quicken into greater life many whose spiritual faculties might otherwise never have been developed. The wonderful success of the operations of associations has served to show how really begotten of God the movement is. The seed sown has truly, in many cases, brought forth a hundred fold, and not until the last day will it be known how great a harvest has been gathered in from the sowing of Christian laymen, banded together all over the world, under the name of the Young Men's Christian Association, to give of their time, their strength, and their substance to extend the glorious kingdom of our Lord and Saviour.

During the year just ended the old lines have been fully followed up but no new branches of work have been attempted. Under the peculiar