

It is evidently not the *desire* or the wish of the leading men of the Y.M.C.A. that their Association should depart from the object of the Societies as stated in the declaration made at Paris, in 1855, by the World's Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations, and re-affirmed at Albany, in 1866, by the Annual Convention of the American Associations as follows:—"The Young Men's Christian Associations seek to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples in their doctrine and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His kingdom among young men."

But we fear that the value of the above resolutions will not be increased in the eyes of those who wish to see clearly defined the relation between the Associations and the Churches by the following that comes right on the heels of the above:—

*Resolved*—That the Associations are not responsible for the opinions, public declarations, or acts of those who may be members of them unless they be in harmony with the pronounced official judgment of the representative bodies of the Associations.

*Resolved*—That we do not esteem it just to the Associations, nor to their members, to charge them with the adoption or approval of the acts or opinions of any individual, which may be thought unscriptural, unsound, or unwise, simply for the reason that such individuals are members of an Association, or office-bearers in the same, or perform service on the invitation of individual Associations.

Does not this last resolution seem to say that while the Associations are willing to become responsible for the *sound* and *wise* utterances and deeds of its office-bearers, it, at the same time, shrinks from becoming responsible for their *unsound* and *foolish* utterances and deeds? Does not this look very much like a parent saying that he is responsible for his child when he acts well, but not when he acts otherwise? The truth is, that the Associations and the Churches are being forced into the consideration of the question, "Is the *Preaching of the Word* a part of the function of the Y.M.C.A.; or, should that be left to the regularly constituted Churches who have powers of examination, supervision, and discipline that the Y.M.C.A. cannot, from the nature of the case, possess?"