

It is a pleasing and encouraging fact that the Associations for the promotion of Temperance, which at one time were too unfriendly with the Churches, have come, to a large degree, under the control of Christian principles and Christian men. Chief among the Associations that have of late wrought nobly as hand-maids to the evangelical Churches stand the *Young Men's Christian Associations of the world*. In various ways these Associations are capable of doing good service, and have done it to the cause of God; and the churches may be deemed lacking in discrimination if they refuse the aid these Associations can offer in the way of assisting in the many and very varied departments of Christian usefulness.

At the recent General meeting of the Associations held in Hamilton a question came up as to the precise relation the Associations hold, or ought to hold, to the Evangelical Churches of Canada. The impression, we are aware, was produced in some quarters, and found utterance in prominent religious weekly newspapers of the States, that the Y.M.C.A. was becoming gradually a rival to existing Churches, and therefore, in essence and tendency, a new sect. We are glad to see a very laudable desire to set at rest this alarm, as far as *resolutions* can do so, by the following unanimous finding of the Hamilton meeting:—

*Whereas*—It has been publicly asserted that persons connected with the Association have engaged in criticism of the official action of evangelical ecclesiastical bodies; that others have administered the ordinances of the Church; that the Associations are seeking directly or indirectly, by lay evangelism and a new Church organization, to supplant or supplement existing Church organizations on one hand, or to disseminate Plymouth and anti-Church views on the other; and

*Whereas*—Much public discussion has taken place in regard to the same, and the Associations as organized bodies have in some quarters been charged with responsibility for these utterances or acts of some of them; therefore,

*Resolved*—That we re-affirm the utterances of the General Conventions of the Associations of this continent, which declare in substance that the Associations are not political or merely reform societies, nor substitutes for, nor rivals of, the Churches of Christ; that they hold the obligation and duty of their members to the Churches with which they are connected as superior to those due the Association; that they recognise and uphold a divinely-appointed ministry; that they hold that questions of doctrine or polity as to which the various branches of the evangelical Churches are not agreed are questions with which as Associations they have nothing whatever to do.