

Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.—1 Cor. x. 31.

Our Mission Union,

ISSUED ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAY OF
EACH MONTH.

Subscription Rates, per year, (post paid).

Single Copy, 50 cts.; Six Copies, \$2.50; Ten Copies,
\$3.50; Twenty-five Copies, \$7.50; Fifty Copies,
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The Toronto Mission Union.

HOW IT ORIGINATED.

HE Mission Union is not the outcome of any great Congress or Convention, nor can its origin be traced to the soul stirring appeal of some earnest visitor from similar fields of labour in other lands. Were we asked to name any one person to whom its inception could be traced, we should also fail. There can be no doubt, however, that the work carried on by Mr. W. H. Howland, and which has been so richly blessed by God, had much to do with giving shape to the work.

For months prior to the organization of the Mission, there had been laid upon the hearts of several Christians the need for a Union Mission Work. From time to time, they spoke to each other; and, at length, after much private prayer, it was concluded to hold a meeting for consultation. This was held in the Board Room of the Willard Tract Depository, when the general plan was discussed. The meeting then adjourned, and some time allowed to elapse, during which it was hoped a conference might be secured with the ministers of the city. After a delay of several weeks, a second meeting was held in April, 1884, at the residence of Mr. W. H. Howland, Park Crescent, when it was decided to organize under the name of "The Toronto Mission Union," and a committee was appointed, with authority to lease the premises now occupied. Thus the work

was launched, and, ere long, by the exertions of a Ladies' Committee, the bare building was made a comfortable home; and a sum equal to \$1600.00 per annum was forthcoming without solicitation. In the home was received a number of aged people, who to-day bless God for comforts in declining years, which comforts never would have been theirs but for the organization of the Union.

From the outset it was decided that no collectors should be appointed, nor should there be solicitation for funds. The work itself will be laid before the Christian public in the columns of this paper or elsewhere, and it that work be of God, the Committee fear no financial failure.

In May, Mr. H. B. Gordon, Architect, submitted plans for the Mission Hall, which were adopted, and that building is now rapidly approaching completion; in fact, arrangements have been made for its formal opening during the first week of September. The total cost of building and fittings, including heating apparatus, is estimated at \$3000.00; and thus far the Treasurer has received, by voluntary contributions, a sum of about \$1300.00.

When open, meetings will be held every week evening, and also at stated hours on the Lord's Day; but no services will be held for adults at the same hour as church services. It is the determination of the Union to work in hearty co-operation with all Evangelical Churches; and when the Lord owns the work in the conversion of men or women, the first care will be to advise such persons to unite with the church.

In this issue, (last page) the order of opening exercises is published, and we ask that God's children everywhere remember this work, which has been entered upon with an eye single to the glory of God. That such a work is needed cannot be disputed in face of the facts elicited by the recent Church Census made by the Ministerial Association of Toronto. That census revealed the fact that there are over 4,000 families in the city without church privileges, and the indefatigable Secretary of the Committee of Ministers, Rev. P. McF. McLeod, stated his opinion that this number is below the actual fact. It will ever be the aim of the Union to fulfil the Master's injunction, and go out into the streets, and compel these wanderers to come in, and when won for the Master see that they are placed 'neath the care of His under shepherds.

The staff of workers is being rapidly increased, and it is hoped the day may not be far distant when the several Missions scattered throughout the city shall become one with this Union work, or affiliated with it. In the meantime, the Missionaries engaged by the churches are in hearty sympathy with the Union, and, so far as their duties permit, are co-operating with it.