

A name that is above every name.

Phil. ii. 9.

**GROWTH OF YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS.**

1866 and 1883.

Then less than 80 Associations, and only 65 reporting to the Albany Convention.

737 reported at Milwaukee (in 1883), an aggregate membership of over 95,000.

Then one Association Building, costing \$10,000, and the beginnings of two or three Building Funds.

Now 73 Buildings, valued at \$2,900,000, and 49 Building Funds. Total net property of all kinds \$3,468,000. A fair illustration of the growth of all the secular interests of the Associations.

Then 9 salaried Secretaries.

Now 320 General Secretaries and other agents employed by the local Associations, many of them thoroughly trained in and consecrated to their work. 12 Annual Conferences of these Secretaries have been held, the last one with an attendance of 177. These are virtually Secretarial Institutes, where the nature and work of the office has been defined and developed.

Then nearly half the Associations without the evangelical test of membership.

No the large majority of them united in this regard, thus establishing the Christian character of the organization.

Then 13 Associations reported Bible Classes and 47 reported Prayer Meetings.

Now over 300 Associations report Bible Classes and over 600 report Prayer Meetings, besides numerous other religious gatherings

Then young men not only the most difficult class to reach with the Gospel, but the most neglected also.

Now this reproach is being removed, and hopefulness concerning work for young men is felt.

Then no work among special classes of young men.

Now extensive effort among five influential classes of young men. Colleges, Railways, Commercial Travellers, German, Colored.

Then little intercourse among the individual Associations.

Now constant fraternal visitation and correspondence

Then no State nor Provincial Committees nor Conventions.

Now, 31 such committees, 27 of which held State and Provincial Conventions in 1882, together with a large number of district and local conferences.

Then, \$884 expended for general work. Now, \$26,000 expended annually for the International Work and over \$23,000 for the State and Provincial Work.

Then, no general system of visitation. Now, 10 International Secretaries, 15 State and Provincial Secretaries and a host of capable volunteer visitors.

Then, isolation, disorganization. Now, concert of action, confidence, harmony in principles and hearty cooperation in aggressive effort.

The Association cause was never so strong on this Continent as it is to-day. It never commanded so much money; it never had so firm a hold as now upon public sympathy; never have Association men seen so clearly as now that it is their overshadowing duty in these societies to labor primarily, chiefly, always for the salvation of young men; and never has the Great Head of the Church more richly blessed their efforts than in the year just closing.

The Lord hath done great things for us: whereof we are glad.—Psalm cxxvi. 3.

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory.—Ps. cxv. 1.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower.

Prov. xviii. 10.