

Monthly Messenger.

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CONGREGATIONAL YOUNG MEN'S MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

This important association has been only a little more than two years in existence, yet the good that it has accomplished in that time is very marked. It numbers at present over forty members, and on April 28 closed a most successful session. In addition to the usual exercises of essays and debates, readings and recitations, a portion of each evening was devoted to instruction in English history, elocution, vocal music, phonography, and English grammar, in which all took a deep interest and made good progress.

The next session will open (D.V.) on November 5, and every Tuesday evening will be devoted to the subjects published below, and Thursday evenings will be occupied with the study of important subjects. If the association will only persevere for a few years in the same spirit that has characterised its members, we augur a bright future for many of the young men.

A library has been commenced, and by carrying out the present arrangement 150 standard works will be on the shelves before the opening of next session. During the recess the librarian will attend on Monday evenings, at 8.30, to change books for the members.

The following is the report of the secretary for the year ending April 28, 1878:—

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF YOUNG MEN'S MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1878.

Mr. President,

In presenting my report for the year 1878, I cannot but express the pleasure I feel in meeting my brethren under the present favourable circumstances—favourable for our association because the foreshadowings of a long and highly useful career are so plain and unmistakable as to preclude the slightest misgivings as to the future. In retrospect the past twelve months we see much to cause feelings of gratitude to well up within our breasts.

Nothing has transpired to mar the harmony so characteristic of our proceedings since the memorable night when eight or ten of us assembled in the class-

room above and laid the corner-stone of the proud structure that now indicates our existence. Even death itself, stern and relentless as it is, seems to have shown us more than ordinary respect, for not a blank page has yet appeared in the carefully-compiled volume in which is recorded the many pleasing episodes that go to make up the history of this institution.

Here, then, is ample cause for thankfulness to the Supreme Ruler of the universe for His goodness and mercy to us. Let us, brethren, by our future conduct show that we are not ungrateful to our Heavenly Parent for the rich and precious blessings which we are daily receiving at His munificent hand.

And while we are thankful to Almighty God for the blessings of health and happiness, it behoves us to be no less thankful for the advantages, intellectually, which He has permitted us to enjoy. In the early part of the present session an excellent syllabus was submitted and adopted, and this compendium constituted the leading features of our exercises. By regular attendance and close application to study, a large amount of permanently useful information has been acquired.

It is also gratifying to observe the steady increase in the number of those present at the regular meetings; and this, perhaps, is attributable to the fact that every available opportunity is taken advantage of to introduce new exercises, and otherwise contribute to the interest of the weekly meetings; and foremost in this laudable effort has been our beloved president, whose untiring zeal and indefatigable exertions deserve the heartfelt gratitude of every member of the association.

Apart from the regular duties of his office, he has done a great deal to bring the institution prominently before the public. During the session two very able lectures were delivered by him on behalf of the library fund, the proceeds of which, together with the yearly dues, will enable us to purchase sixty or seventy volumes of valuable books to add to those already on the shelves.

The monetary affairs of the association will be satisfactorily dealt with by our efficient treasurer, whose able management of the fiscal department has added not a little to our financial success.