

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD



C. SANDHAM SC.

# OUR MISSION

Published by the TORONTO WILLARD TRACT DEPOSITORY, TORONTO, CANADA.

Vol. II.

JULY 3, 1886.

No. 20.

## Mr. George Williams.

IT is not often given to men to see the fruit of their labours during their lifetime. The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in 1844 in quite a small way, and it has grown until Branches may be found all over the world, with a membership of more than two hundred thousand.

While Mr. Williams is generally spoken of as the *founder* of Y. M. C. Associations, it must be borne in mind that organizations for the spiritual benefit of young men do not date their inception to 1844, but go beyond that date over one century. The question has also been raised in England as to the validity of the claims made by Mr. Williams' friends, as to the honor of having first suggested the work. In the first annual report presented Nov. 8, 1844, it is stated, "The design of forming such an Association originated with our excellent friend, who now occupies the chair," (Mr. W. D. Owen, principal of a large Drapery warehouse in the West End of London.) It, however, appears that while the suggestion came from Mr. Owen, the name of George

Williams must ever remain intimately associated with the *organization* of the work, for it was in a little room in which he slept, at 72 St. Paul's Churchyard, was gathered a little company of twelve, on June 6, 1844, who then organized an Association for the spiritual benefit of young men engaged in the Drapery trade, and the now well known name was chosen, "Young Men's Christian Association."

But there can be no doubt, whatever, that Mr. Williams has been the leading spirit of the Association from the first until now, and that his devotion, energy and liberality has been the chief instrument in making it what it is; and if anybody does dispute his right to be called the founder, he may console himself with the reflection that he is in this respect in the same boat with many other inventors of new methods and leaders of great movements.

For many years Mr.

George Williams has filled the office of Treasurer of the parent Association, and at the death of Earl Shaftesbury, the committee elected him to the vacant presidency.

But it is not only in connection with the Y. M. C. A.



GEORGE WILLIAMS.