

→Y.M.C.A.←

A LARGE number in the Freshman Class have identified themselves with the Y.M.C.A., and attend its meetings regularly. This is right. There is nothing like showing one's colors from the start.

The general evangelistic services on Sabbath evenings have not yet been resumed, as the Saved Army are at present holding meetings in the City Hall.

Three of our members, Mr. R. McKay, Mr. A. McAulay, and Mr. J. P. Gerrier attended the Christian Convention held in Toronto last week. At the Friday afternoon prayer-meeting they gave a short report, that they might convey to the boys who could not attend the Convention, a little of the inspiration which they themselves had received. They went specially to hear Moody, but he wasn't there. Thousands of people crashed into Metropolitan Church eager to see and hear the world-renowned Evangelist, but ere he had spoken many words they forgot all about Moody and felt that they were dealing directly with Moody's God. Moody never places himself between the Saviour and the people. He believes God, he honors the Holy Spirit, he is a man with a heart. Let those who would have power in Christian Services learn the lesson.

An effort is being made at present to establish a Y. M. C. A. in the city. It is a disgrace to the Christian Men of Kingston, that for nearly five years there has been no such institution in the city. We trust the present effort will be successful. It will require that the Christian young men consecrate a part of their time to this work of reaching and helping their fellows, and that the older men support the work by their counsel, sympathy, and especially by their money. The young men of the College Association would be only too glad to render any assistance in their power, if a city association were organized.

Our President has lately received a communication from the Association in McGill College, Montreal. This Association was organized last spring, but not in time to accomplish much before the session closed. This session it has started with all the wanted vigor of youth. A number of the leading workers are medical students. Two delegates attended the Peterboro Convention, and returned home much encouraged, with many new ideas about College work and its possibilities. The Week of Prayer was to them a time of refreshing, when a number of the younger fellows came out into greater activity. They realized the meaning of the verse: "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends." One permanent result of the Week of Prayer has been a Weekly Prayer Meeting for workers. Owing to the numbers attending the Student's Sunday afternoon meeting, they have recently been compelled to obtain a larger room in the Montreal Y.M.C.A. building.

EXCHANGES.

TWO of the exchanges lately received contain articles which deal with poets and poetry. The *Bee* has a paper on Mrs. Browning, and *Portfolio* has a short account of Longfellow's "Excelsior." The writer of the former, Miss Pillsbury, writes in high admiration of Mrs. Browning with a considerable knowledge and appreciation of her works. But her praise of the poetess is a little profuse. It is not necessary, because you think highly of an author, to feel obliged to praise all that the author has produced. He, generally, most truly esteems who can blame as well as praise. One who praises indiscriminately may justly be charged with failure to distinguish between beauties and defects. Few will deny to Mrs. Browning a powerful intellect, and a lofty imagination. Many would hesitate to call her a realist. We ourselves do not think that even in "Aurora Leigh," has she presented the highest forms of life. While, too, we realize something of the wonderful simplicity of Marian Erle, still hers was a life of suffering. Suffering cannot surely be final, and yet it is doubtful if Mrs. Browning ever got quite beyond that. It is true that a life of pain can be pleaded as an excuse for the poetess, and that she has in many of her poems expressed resignation, and some glimpses of hope. But resignation and hope are not equivalent to the many-sided life, and it cannot be denied that her prevailing tone is one of sadness.

"Excelsior" is very well treated in *Portfolio*, but it is questionable if the writer has brought out the root idea of the piece. Although some of the thoughts would seem to harmonize with the conception of the success and failure of ambition, yet the poem has a teaching more lofty than that. The writer seems to have ignored in her analysis the lines,

"And from the sky, serene and far,
A voice fell, like a falling star,
"Excelsior!"

Neither ambition nor the failure of ambition is taught in such a voice from the sky. We have our own opinion on the subject, but the writer of "Excelsior" will be less benefitted by it, than by endeavouring to make out the truth for herself. There are few things that are more worthy of study than the thoughts of our poets.

It was found necessary last year to admonish the *Vanderbilt Observer* concerning the literary fitness for publication of some of its articles. That admonition needs to be repeated, while the *Observer* is on the whole, a reasonable good journal, yet the carelessness of its editors permits to appear at times, compositions which are, to speak mildly, schoolboyish. Such a production is "Melancholy" in No. 3. Perhaps the intentions of the writer were good, but almost every line reveals the literary freshman. It is necessary to specify. The writer is not yet out of the region of figurative speech. No one should talk in prose about 'nature with lavish hand,' or 'the flow of the tide