

with suspicion or jealousy. They are now generally regarded as a valuable auxiliary of the Christian Church, occupying exactly the same position in relation to the Church as Sabbath Schools. They are intended to reach *young men*, as Sabbath Schools are intended specially to reach *children*. It is true there may be some things in the working of some of the Associations of which all cannot approve; but surely, as their great object is the glory of God and the welfare of young men, there should be a warm corner in every christian heart for them. There should be no unholy rivalry, no mean jealousy, between Christian workers.

The History of Young Men's Christian Associations teaches us never to despise the day of small things. In the City of London, about 25 years ago, a few clerks met in the house of a friend to pray that they might be kept from the evils surrounding them, and that their fellow-clerks might be saved. Now there are Associations of young men to be found throughout the length and breadth of Christendom. There are 850 on this continent, and about 50 in the Maritime Provinces, most of which have been formed during the past six or seven years.

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Association of the Maritime Provinces was held on 4th Sept., in Truro. About 100 delegates were present. Long will the meetings be remembered by those who attended them. The discussions were eminently practical, the prayers earnest and sincere, the singing simply grand. As our souls were thrilled with "the old, old story" and other Hymns, sung so simply and feelingly, we wondered how any one could condemn Hymn-singing. The presence of H. Thane Miller of Cincinnati, and R. R. McBurnie, Secretary of the New York Association, added greatly to the interest of the meetings. Mr. Miller is a genial, whole-souled Christian. His addresses are simple, earnest, impressive. He indulges in no flights of laboured eloquence. His stories are very touching. He excels, however, in singing sacred songs. Surely christians in all our Churches should try to cultivate this precious "gift" more than they do. Good singing draws many to Christ and elevates the soul, as well as good preaching.

On Thursday morning, after an hour spent in devotional exercises, the retiring President, W. Walsh, of St. John, took the chair and called the convention to order. Several Committees were nominated, and the office-bearers for the year appointed, F. W. Hales of Charlottetown being President. Thereafter a few minutes were spent in mutual introductions.

The afternoon was occupied with hearing Reports from the different Associations, and from the Executive and Business Committees.

In the evening the "Welcome Meeting" was held in the Presbyterian Church. Addresses of Welcome by Mr. Cummings, Rev. Mr. Goucher, and Mr. Alex. Russell, were responded to by Messrs. Walsh, Thane Miller, and McBurnie. All these addresses were excellent. Mr. Miller appealed especially to the unconverted in the audience, and, by the uncertainty of life, urged them to fly at once to Christ and cry, "Be merciful to me, a sinner."

A very interesting discussion on "Systematic Benevolence," opened by Rev. E. A. McCurdy of New Glasgow, was held on Friday morning. The duty of giving systematically, and at least a *tenth* of our income to the Lord, was strongly urged by Mr. McCurdy. Mr. Walsh dwelt on the *privilege* of giving. Mr. Miller of West River spoke of the importance of *system* in worldly business. Mr. Cumming of Truro referred to difficulties in carrying out "the weekly offering system." Mr. Freeman of Liverpool dwelt eloquently on "the stewardship" of christians. Mr. Fisher of Fredericton maintained that some *give too much* to religious purposes—that we must be just before we are generous, that *giving to God* while we *wrong men* must be an abomination in God's sight. Rev. Mr. Herdman held that the New Testament rule is not *one tenth*, but "as God hath prospered," that one-tenth may be too much for one man to give, and not enough for another. Mr. McBurnie urged the duty of *educating* young men to give, and referred to an instance of a stingy man being excommunicated from the Church. Several others spoke well, and we are sure the discussion will do good. Let all Bible readers study carefully 1. Cor. 16 : 2.