

with the cheering thought of having been well employed."

There were, however, some to be found who looked with unfavorable eyes upon this movement; and Dr. Henry Compton, Bishop of London, was warned that these were things "leading to schism, spiritual pride, and many other ill consequences." The young men were called upon to vindicate their cause, which they did to the satisfaction of the worthy Bishop, who said, "God forbid that I should be against such excellent desigs." So faithful were the members in their adherence to their church ordinances, that special public services were instituted in London for their express benefit. By these means they grew in favor with ecclesiastical authorities, and their good report soon reached the Royal Palace, and Queen Anne listened with deep interest to the accounts given her of their devotion.

About the year 1720, there was formed at Oxford an Association of young Students, the members of which at first read divinity on Sunday evenings. The summer following, they began to visit the prisoners in the jails, and the poor in the town. This Association was known by the Students as the *Godly Club*, and among its prominent members were John Wesley, Geo. Whitfield, and others well known in the Christian World. During visits made by members of this Association to London, they became intimately associated with the Young Men's Societies there, especially those meeting in Westminster, Fetter Lane and Aldersgate Street. It was at the latter meeting that John Wesley experienced the power of divine change wrought in his soul by the Holy Ghost; and his journal abundantly proves that he found his earliest and best coadjutors amongst the members of the London Young Men's Societies.

A long interval occurs during which but little is known of these and similar Societies; but it is not to be supposed that during this time the spiritual interests of young men were neglected.

The year 1835 was a memorable one in the history of religious work in London. In that year the London City Mission was formed by Mr. David Nasmith and in the same day in which the Mission was instituted a meeting was held at which was formed a Metropolitan Young Men's Society, which,

while taking but little aggressive action on behalf of young men, served to bring young men more under public notice, and served to keep their dangers and wants before the eye of the church of Christ. We pass on to the year 1842 when Mr. Geo. Williams (founder of the Y. M. C. Associations as at present recognized) went to London as clerk in a large warehouse, in which about 80 young men were employed. He desired their spiritual welfare. He prayed that a way of usefulness might be opened, and his prayer was answered. A few like minded young men were brought together and finally in 1844, (June 6,) a society was formed and the name of Young Men's Christian Association was adopted. The work of the Association was blessed, and in 1846 there were similar Associations planted in several of the towns of England.

In 1851 the wave reached Canada, and at Montreal on the 19th November, 1851, was organized the first Association in America. (A few days later the Boston, Mass. Association was organized, but without any knowledge of the action taken at Montreal.) The Chairman at the first meeting of the Montreal Association was Rev. Mr. Marling well known to many in Toronto.

The first Association in Ontario (then Upper Canada) is that at Ottawa, formed in 1857. The Toronto Association was organized in 1864. The growth and development of the work of this Association has been watched with interest by the Christian public, and its 17th anniversary finds it with a strong hold upon the sympathy of all, and with the most cordial relations existing between it and the pastors and churches of the city. We devoutly thank God for all His goodness, and take upon our lips the closing words of Joshua, admitting that "we know in all our hearts and in all our souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord our God spake concerning us; all are come to pass unto us, and not one thing hath failed thereof." Josh. xxiii, 14.

---

## GOSPEL AND SONG SERVICE

*Every Sunday Evening, at 8.30.*

Good singing, with Y.M.C.A. Orchestra accompanying.

SHORT GOSPEL ADDRESSES,

**COME!**