

The Chairman then delivered the following address :—

DEAR BRETHREN,—

In coming together to-day, for the first time, as members of a Young Men's Christian Association Convention, it has fallen to my lot to open the business proceedings, and as I feel assured that we are all desirous of proceeding at once with the permanent organization, I shall not take up your time with a long address. A few words in reference to the work we are specially brought together to discuss and advance, may not be out of place at this time.

Young Men's Christian Associations, according to the formula adopted as the basis of their organization, are "Societies which have for their object the formation and development in young men, of Christian character and Christian activity. They seek to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples in their doctrine and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His kingdom among young men."

The London Association—the parent society—was founded in June, 1844, and in December, 1851, the first Association on this continent was organized in Montréal. Boston was next in order, and its example was soon followed in most of the large cities in the United States.

At first the growth of these societies was not very rapid, for at the First Annual Convention held in Buffalo, June, 1854, only 35 delegates from 19 Associations were present, and the number of Associations reported as existing was 35. From that date the growth was steady, and although checked by the American war, its never ceased until the organization has reached to over 300 Associations on this continent, with a membership of nearly 50,000; and both in the United States and Canada the work is going forward; and we have met to-day to devise plans for perfecting and consolidating this agency of the Church, to discuss practical subjects relating to it, to become better acquainted as brethren in Christ, and to learn how we can do more to save the young men of Canada.

And at this point in the history of the Young Men's Christian Association in this Province, it is proper that the present should take counsel of the past, and gather thence hope, wisdom and strength for a higher future life. In view of the peculiar features of the age we live in, it appears necessary that the intelligence and zeal of the Church should keep pace with the progress which is made in knowledge and culture by the masses of the community; and, especially, that those who take part in the