

man, thrown by circumstances outside of the influence of home restraint and example, and who might otherwise be led into evil ways, entailing sorrow upon themselves and their families at home, were sought out by the Young Men's Christian Association and provided with surroundings calculated to lead the mind away from evil. Surely, this was a laudable work and one for which every parent would invoke upon the Associations the blessings of God.

The speaker enlarged, to some extent, upon other features of the organization, and after referring to the respect which the people of Chatham were accustomed to pay to all organizations and efforts for the furtherance of Christian principles and teaching, closed with words of welcome to so many Christian workers.

"Tell me the old story," was then sung and J. B. Morrow, Esq., Chairman of the Convention, was called upon to respond to the welcome extended on the part of the citizens, which did not consist of a few well-chosen words. Referring to the reception of the delegates he said that although he did not arrive with them (having preceded them) he was very much pleased with the spirit and method which characterized the arrangements for their reception and the promptness with which they were furnished with the addresses of those with whom they were to stay. In fact, everything had been well done by the local committee.

People, he said, might wonder what all these delegates were about and some might think they represented an organization which, to some extent, entered upon the legitimate field of the Church, but although that had once been said, the clergy had long since learned that the Associations were but helpers in a necessary Christian work and valuable aids to the Church. In dealing with young men it was a part of the duty of the organization to recognize that they had bodies as well as souls, while the city associations furnished food for the mind, they did not forget to provide gymnastics and other wholesome means of developing the body, so as to retain the faculties as much as possible within the circle of the better influences and by that means, if possible, save some.

Mr. Morrow dwelt upon the temptations which beset young men in cities and the ease with which they sink into vice after the first false steps are taken, and urged the people of Chatham to continue and increase interest in the local Association, so that it might be useful in exerting influence for good over the many young men in the town whose numbers and interests must offer a good field for Christian efforts in their behalf. The Associations, he said, aimed not to cram religion down their throats and make it distasteful to them, but to afford them the rational entertainment and means of spending their spare hours in parlors, libraries etc. such as would be proper in any Christian home. He roday thanks for the welcome extended, solicited prayers for the success of the delegates' and Associations' work, and would leave the results with God.

"What shall we do?" was sung, after which Rev. Wm. Wilson was called upon to welcome the Convention on the part of the Clergy of Chatham. In doing so, he said he represented a large and very important organization, whose ramifications spread over nearly the entire world—an institution important and beneficial in its aims, and the results of its labors. It might have its drawbacks, for what institution had not yet, but it was a whole that was a power for good in the land. Its origin might have been obscure, its beginnings small, but it had met with a success that was characteristic of the times in which it existed. There were not many times in the history of mankind in which Christianity was such a power as at present. Christian character was larger, more symmetrical, sweeter, truer than ever it was before. Since the individual saintly character was to stand out prominently, but there were such bodies of men wearing the Christian name, never such churches, never such congregations, never such organizations as at the present time, with so high a moral development. It is being recognized now more than ever, that Christianity is that which human nature needs and without which mankind would die. The central, distinct, and highest of the system, the wisdom of God and the power of God, as manifested in Jesus and him crucified. There never was so much thought about it as now—never was there so much force in it. Although we are falling away from new-fangled ideas, yet Christ is coming more and more a universal power in the world. He is preached better than ever before; He is studied more and thought about more than ever before. The secret of this power is the element of sympathy, benevolence and philanthropy which lies at the foundation of the system of Christianity; God, manifest in Christ, sends a ray of the sin of the world—God so loving the world as to give his Son to die for it—God administering the affairs of the universe for the sake of saving the lost, rescuing the perishing, restoring the fallen. The Young Men's Christian Association spreads itself over the land. He takes hold of our young men who are away from the better influences of home and keeps them from the paths of sin and temptation. It takes those who have wandered from the ways of truth and purity and brings them back again to the better path and in that work it is a Christian institution of the times and, as such, deserves our warm support. There never was a time when so much literature was employed in diffusing the Christian idea of sympathy for the poor and needy and him that hath no helper. Novelists, associates, philosophers, are inculcating the Christian idea that the strong must help the weak, the rich the poor, the learned the ignorant—that the great law of love, with its attendant self-sacrifice is the true principle that should animate the hearts of all.

Denominarianism beginning to lay aside their bitter antagonisms—they are learning to love each other better and to tolerate each other's opinions. The various sects are beginning to understand that true Christianity is more than mere creeds and articles—more universal than dogmas and degrees. There is beginning to permeate all denominations the idea that the spirit of love and loyalty to Jesus Christ unites them and is the true spirit to rule and rule in all the congregations—the spirit which is being developed more rapidly by the agency of Young Men's Christian Associations for which he anticipated a glorious future.

The organization was not opposed to the Church but was its handmaid and, therefore, in the name of the Clergy of Chatham, he had pleasure in bidding them welcome to the town, its homes, its churches, to the best of his, their sympathy and its love. The hymn "Jesus, Lover of my soul" was sung and Rev. Mr. Reed of Yarmouth was introduced. In replying to the address just delivered by Mr. Wilson he dwelt upon the effect which Christian

sympathy produced upon the hearts of those engaged in Christian work. He said the delegates never preached on the merits of any saint, without having with them some relic, such as hair, clothes or blood of the subject, which they would display before their hearers and thereby attract their attention the more. They said the delegates never preached on the merits of any saint, without having with them some relic, such as hair, clothes or blood of the subject, which they would display before their hearers and thereby attract their attention the more. They said the delegates never preached on the merits of any saint, without having with them some relic, such as hair, clothes or blood of the subject, which they would display before their hearers and thereby attract their attention the more.

After a portion of Scripture had been read, with singing and prayer, the Chairman nominated the four standing Committees—on Devotional exercises, Credentials, Resolutions, and Business. A number of Reports from Associations were then made by Delegates. Mr. T. K. Cree, from New York, the representative of the International Association, was then introduced by the Chairman, and spoke briefly.

After a hymn had been sung and Prayer offered by the Rev. Dr. Burns, the Business Committee reported relative to the order of proceedings in the Convention. The Devotional Committee reported relative to open air meetings in the evening. Mr. T. K. Cree of New York gave an interesting account of the progress of the International Association. In the States and Provinces there were now 800,000 members belonging to Y. M. C. Associations.

The President announced that a quantity of tracts for distribution had been presented by Mr. Needham the Evangelist. The Reports of Associations were continued, after which the session closed with devotional exercises. After devotional exercises and the reading of the minutes, the Credentials Committee reported forty credentials, and open air services were announced and the reports from Associations were then continued.

The 4th topic of discussion was then taken up—Prayer Meetings, Sunday Schools, Bible classes, and Cottage meetings as fields of usefulness open to the Y. M. C. A. An interesting discussion followed which occupied the greater portion of the afternoon, and a resolution was ordered to be prepared embodying the views of the Convention. The Report of the Executive Committee of the International Association, 1876-1877, was read by Mr. Wiswell of Halifax. It referred to the last Convention held at Amherst, and the International Convention held last summer at Louisville, Ky. In the Maritime Provinces there were 60 Associations with 3,500 members, in which there was a slight falling off during the past year. The annual expenditure was \$8,863. Earnest invitations had been issued to Association to attend the coming Convention in Quebec.

The report was referred to a special Committee. The session closed with devotional exercises. FRIDAY—EVENING SESSION. The meeting of the Convention in the evening in St. Andrew's Church was largely attended. Mr. J. Burrill of Yarmouth presided at the meeting. The first part of the evening was taken up with the reading of the minutes of the Convention held at Amherst, and the International Convention held last summer at Louisville, Ky. In the Maritime Provinces there were 60 Associations with 3,500 members, in which there was a slight falling off during the past year. The annual expenditure was \$8,863. Earnest invitations had been issued to Association to attend the coming Convention in Quebec.

The Chairman then introduced to the Convention, the Hon. A. Vidal of Sarnia, and W. B. Crombie, Esq., of Toronto, who had just returned from England. Both these gentlemen briefly addressed the meeting, expressing their pleasure at being present and gave interesting accounts of their experience in Association work. Hon. Mr. Vidal said that at a Convention in London last year, it was recommended that Associations of the Upper and Maritime Provinces should meet in Convention. Mr. Wiswell, of Halifax, offered a resolution of thanks to the Convention to the Hon. A. Vidal of Sarnia, and W. B. Crombie, Esq., of Toronto, who had just returned from England. Both these gentlemen briefly addressed the meeting, expressing their pleasure at being present and gave interesting accounts of their experience in Association work.

Hymn—"I Trust the Saviour say Thy strength indeed is small," being sung, F. W. Hales Esq., of Charlottetown, presided at the address of Mr. Peterson. He said the delegates would more than ever, that Christianity is that which human nature needs and without which mankind would die. The central, distinct, and highest of the system, the wisdom of God and the power of God, as manifested in Jesus and him crucified. There never was so much thought about it as now—never was there so much force in it. Although we are falling away from new-fangled ideas, yet Christ is coming more and more a universal power in the world. He is preached better than ever before; He is studied more and thought about more than ever before. The secret of this power is the element of sympathy, benevolence and philanthropy which lies at the foundation of the system of Christianity; God, manifest in Christ, sends a ray of the sin of the world—God so loving the world as to give his Son to die for it—God administering the affairs of the universe for the sake of saving the lost, rescuing the perishing, restoring the fallen. The Young Men's Christian Association spreads itself over the land. He takes hold of our young men who are away from the better influences of home and keeps them from the paths of sin and temptation. It takes those who have wandered from the ways of truth and purity and brings them back again to the better path and in that work it is a Christian institution of the times and, as such, deserves our warm support. There never was a time when so much literature was employed in diffusing the Christian idea of sympathy for the poor and needy and him that hath no helper. Novelists, associates, philosophers, are inculcating the Christian idea that the strong must help the weak, the rich the poor, the learned the ignorant—that the great law of love, with its attendant self-sacrifice is the true principle that should animate the hearts of all.

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THE ROLL OF THE ASSOCIATIONS WAS CALLED. Some discussion arose as to the time and manner of publishing the Report, and the advisability of omitting the speeches. SUBSCRIPTIONS. Subscriptions to the Executive Committee were called for. About \$150 were subscribed and 140 reports taken by various associations, but a number of the delegates offered further sums, should some person be appointed to visit the Associations. THE NEXT CONVENTION. The place of the next Convention was discussed. Invitations were received from Liverpool and New Glasgow; the latter was finally accepted. The question as to the union of the Associations of the Maritime Provinces in Convention with those of Quebec and Ontario, was also brought up, but left for future consideration. After the Business Committee had reported the session closed with devotional exercises.

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