

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY Y. M. C. A.

Previous to 1884 there had been several attempts to organize the Christian men in the University but without success. During the session of 1883-84, at the request of Mr. D. A. Budge, Secretary of the City Y. M. C. A. a McGill Student attended the Annual Convention of the Y. M. C. A. of Ontario and Quebec, held at Peterboro, Ont. On the return of Mr. James K. Unsworth, the McGill delegate, from the Convention, an Association was organized in McGill with fifteen members, and Mr. Unsworth elected the first president.

Through the kindness of the City Association the McGill men met every Sunday afternoon in one of the small Rooms in the Y. M. C. A. building on the corner of Victoria Square. The men were much blessed by their meetings together, and on the session coming to an end, it was resolved that they should pray earnestly during the summer that the usefulness of the Association might be extended the following session.

The next session the Association more than doubled its members and besides the usual Sunday afternoon meeting, the prayer meeting on Tuesday evening, in No. 1 class room, Arts building, was started. The membership at this time was confined chiefly to Arts men, but in the Spring of 1885, Mr Kendal then in 2nd year Medecine, was elected President for the ensuing year.

The Session 1885-'86, was opened by a very successful reception tendered by the Association to the incoming freshmen. It was held in the parlors of the City Association building and was the first of these annual receptions which have now become a part of our College life. This Session was marked by great increase of membership. The number having risen to about one hundred from every department of the University. Mr. James K. Unsworth was elected President for the following session. In the fall of 1886, a most successful reception was held in the Peter Redpath Museum, to which, as now, all the Governors, Professors and their families, as well as all students in the University were invited. Two very