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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE

HALLFAX YOUNG MEN'S

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,

CONTAINING 333

CONSTITUTION, TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS, LIST OF MEMBERS, ETC.

RECEIVED AND ADOPTED JANUARY 25th, 1868.

HALIFAX, N. S. PRINTED BY WILLIAM MACNAB, 1868.



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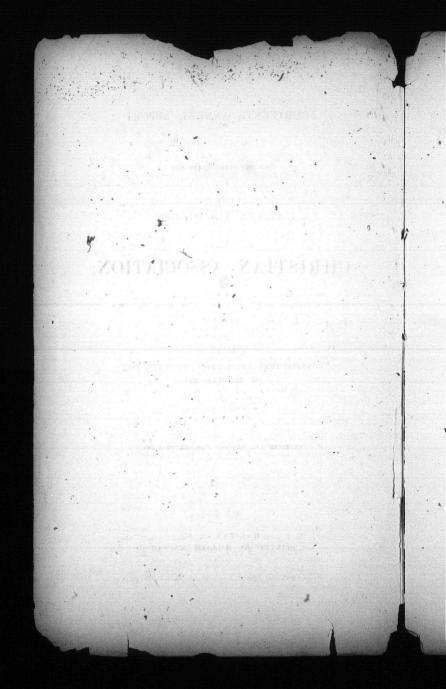
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(Elected January 25.)

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HENRY THEAKSTON.

Trensurer.

S. H. BLACK.

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LECTURES.

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BOOMS AND LIBRARY.

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VISITING SICK AND TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

A. K. DOULL, (Chairman); J. FARQUHAR, W. ROCHE, JR., M. M. LINDSAY, R. N. BECKWITH, W. B. MCNUTT.

STRANGERS AND EMPLOYMENT.

THE PRESIDENT, (Chairman); W. ROCHE, JR., A. G. BREMNER, M. M. LINDSAY, J. C. MACKINTOSH, H. N. PAINT, J. BELL, J. FARQUHAR.

LITERARY.

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W. H. WISWELL, (Chairman); J. C. MACKINTOSH, W. ROCHE, JR., GEORGE MITCHELL, J. FARQUHAR, R. M. KING.

REPORT.

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The Committee of the "Halifax Young Men's Christian Association" beg to present the Fourteenth Annual Report, and in so doing they would return their humble and hearty thanks to God for the abundant blessings and success which have attended their efforts during the year.

Before proceeding to lay before you a report of the Sub-Committees, the Committee would call attention to the Convention held in this city in October last. In March the Committee received an invitation from the "Executive Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces," to attend a Convention, to be held in Montreal in June. The Association was represented at that Convention by the President, John S. Maclean, Esq., Mr. William Roche, Junr., and Mr. John S. Smith. At one of its meetings the following resolution was passed: "That each member of the Executive Committee would make provision for, and call as soon as practicable, a State or Provincial Convention, to promote the interests of existing Associations, and stimulate the formation of additional ones." In accordance with this resolution, the Committee issued circulars to the ministers of all of the evangelical denominations in this Province, explaining the object of such Conventions, asking their co-operation, and requesting them to send one or more of their most active young men, members of the Church, to the Convention.

The Convention was in session for three days. The following is part of a report adopted by the Convention: "That all delegates to this Convention, from localities where there are no Young Men's Christian Associations, be earnestly requested to take immediate steps for the effectual establishment of such institutions."

The Committee have reason to know that much Christian activity and interest have resulted from the Convention; our own Association has advanced in every department, while similar Associations have been formed in Pictou, West River, Antigonish, Albion Mines, Truro, Tatamagouche, Upper Stewiacke, and Sherbrooke, and St. John, N. B. At the last quarterly meeting of the Gommittee, it was decided to organize a Debating Club, in connection with the Association. A sub-committee was appointed to make arrangements, and on the 21st October they instituted the "Y. M. C. A. Literary and Debating Class.". The Class meets every Monday evening, from eight till ten o'clock, and up to the present time has been largely attended by the members of the Association. Any member of the Association can attend and take part in the debates.

LECTURES.

The Committee closed the last course of lectures by a prayer Meeting held in Granville Street Church. They are happy to state that the course was a complete success. The lectures were all largely patronized, and after paying expenses there was a balance of over \$90 in favor of the Association.

The present course of lectures was inaugurated by a Prayer meeting held in St. Matthew's Church. Three lectures have already been delivered by the Revs. Dr. Gramp, Foster Almon, and W. M. Phillip, and were well attended. The following clergymen have kindly promised to lecture before the Association during the present season: the Revs. E. M. Saunders, G. S. Milligan, E. Annand, and Robert Sedgwick.

The Committee return thanks to those gentlemen who have lectured before the Association, to the Press for inserting notices gratis, and to the Trustees of the Churches in which the Prayer Meetings were held.

BIBLE CLASS AND PRAYER MEETINGS.

The Saturday evening Bible Class, which is our Social Meeting of longest standing, still continues in vigorous operation; the Committee feel satisfied that it is doing an excellent work. It is now chiefly attended by those who have not yet reached the meridian of life,—it is therefore emphatically a Young Men's Meeting. A greater number of young men than formerly now take part in the conversation, and many within the past year have presided at the meetings. The class has been considering the Gospel by St. Matthew, which is now finished.

The Committee continued the Sunday afternoon Bible Class for the first 8 months of the year, but on account of the very small number attending, and those not being of the class of persons desired, they have been induced to discontinue it.

The Thursday evening Prayer Meeting has been continued during the past year, and for the first six months was encouraging, but for some time past the attendance has been on the decline. The Committee call the attention of the members to this Meeting. Shall we have a weekly Prayer Meeting? Those who think we ought to have such a meeting, come on Thursday evening from 8 to 9 o'clock. and pray God for a blessing upon the Association. The Debating Class is well attended, why not this meeting?

The Monthly Prayer Meeting on Sunday afternoon has been very successful, and the expectations of the Committee in regard to it have been fully realized. The exercises are interesting and edifying; the average attendance during the year was 70. The Committee would in a great measure attribute the increased interest manifested in these meetings to the delegation to the Montreal Convention, the stirring accounts of the spirit which prevailed in that Assembly have led the Christian Young Men of our Association to feel that they can do more for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom than ever before.

The Committee tender thanks to the Clergy of the city, and to the Press for giving publicity to the Prayer Meetings.

ROOMS AND LIBRARY

The Rooms have been well supplied with reading matter during the year. Fourteen Religious and Secular Magazines, and Thirtythree Newspapers have been regularly received, besides a number presented to the Room by members and others.

The Committee take this opportunity of thanking the following Proprietors who have generously furnished their papers to the Association, viz: Provincial Wesleyan, Christian Messenger, Presbyterian Witness, Church Monitor, Church Chronicle, Golonist, Chronicle, Unionist, Citizen, Reporter, Recorder, Express, Home Circle, Abstainer, Watchman, Royal Gazette, Wolfville Acadian, Bridgetown Free Press, Berwick Star, Bridgetwater Times, Saturday Mail, Eastern Chronicle, Mirror, Church Witness, and Brantford Courier.

The Reading Room is now much frequented by the Members, average daily attendance is sixty.

Strangers coming to the city are invited to visit the Rooms.

During the year the Library has been re-arranged, and a Catalogue of the Books on the shelves prepared, printed and distributed among the Members. The Committee have purchased 75 volumes from England, also 10 volumes have been presented by the following gentlemen,—Messrs. Jos. Mitchell, R. Murray, John Naylor, A. Robinson, and A. McBean. They have purchased a copy of Henry's Commentary, 9 vols. The total number of books at present on the shelves is 1874. Average number of books borrowed from the Library per month, 296.

The Committee have to report that in the month of October the water apparatus in the building overflowed, causing a damage to Mr. Morton's stock to the extent of \$175.00, which had to be paid by the Association, and has considerably crippled our finances.

The Committee have had printed 1000 Cards containing a List of Meetings held in connection with the Association, which have been circulated among the young men of the city.

VISITING SICK AND TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

The Committee are happy to state that there has been very little sickness among the members of the Association during the year, those who have come under their notice have been visited by them. Any member of the Association being sick, is requested to send his name to the Secretary, so that the committee may visit him.

The Committee commenced the Tract distribution on the first Sunday in May, and continued the work until the end of October. Every Sunday morning during that period, the vessels at the Wharves, the Police Station, the Lock-up, the Forry Boat station, and the several Military stations along Water Street, have been visited by the Tract distributors. The Committee cannot say how many tracts have been given away, for besides the tracts purchased by the Association, Mr. Monk, Mr. McBean, and others, have supplied the Committee with a great number.

MEMBERSHIP.

The Committee are happy to report a considerable increase in the membership list. During the year 155 have joined the Association, while 27 have ceased to be members, 15 have left the city, and 9 have withdrawn. Death has also visited our ranks and carried off three of our members. Total number on the books up to the 31st December, '67, 378.

The Committee give two reasons for the large increase in the membership: 1st, the Convention held in this city in October last, which was the means of bringing the Association before the public, and making it acquainted with the objects of Young Men's Christian Associations generally. 2nd, the formation of the "Literary and Debating Class," also in October. Many, no doubt, have joined the Association for the express purpose of taking part in the debates, but the Committee hope so to interest them that they will attend and take part in the devotional meetings.

FINANCE.

The Committee are happy to state that they have been enabled to meet all claims, and had not the accident happened with the water apparatus, for which a large amount had to be paid, they would have been in a position to make considerable improvements in the Rooms and Library. Several persons during the year have withdrawn their support, while others have decreased their subscriptions; doubtless this is to be accounted for by the number of new objects that require aid.

STRANGERS AND EMPLOYMENT.

The Committee have attended to this department to the best of their ability. In March they prepared a Circular addressed to Ministers, Parents and Guardians, which was published in all the religious newspapers of the city. The Committee in the circular invited strangers coming to the city to visit the Rooms and attend our meetings. They also suggested that young men exchanging a rural for a city life, bring with them a letter of introduction to some member of the Young Men's Christian Association. The members of the Committee have endeavoured to obtain situations for those making application.

The Committee cannot close this report without again expressing devout gratitude to their Heavenly Father, who has hitherto enriched the Association with his presence and blessing.

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1867. January.	

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CONSTITUTION,

REVISED AND AMENDED AT A SPECIAL MEETING CALLED FOR THAT PURPOSE, NOVEMBER 28, 1864.

ARTICLE I.

That this Association be called the "HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION."

ARTICLE II.

That the objects of this Association shall be

1st.—The improvement of the spiritual and mental condition of Young Men. 2nd.—The formation of a Christian Library and Reading Room. 3rd.—Rooms and accommodation for Bible Classes and Social Prayer Meetings.

4th.—Courses of Lectures on Religious subjects, as well as Secular, having reference to religion, and the employment of every other available means whereby the increase of vital religion may be promoted.

ARTICLE III.

As it is the highest object of this Association to promote vital religion among the Young Men residing in the city, any person of good moral character may be a Member of this Association by the payment of not less than One Dollar annually. He shall be entitled to all the privileges of the institution provided he be proposed by a member of the Association at one of its meetings, and shall be elected by ballot by the General Committee after satisfactory enquiry as to his eligibility. But no person shall be eligible to serve on a Committee, or be an Office-bearer of the Association who is not a member in good standing in one of the Evangelical Churches.

ARTICLE IV.

Any member, on the payment of £10 at any one time, may become a Life Member.

ARTICLE V.

The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, Librarian and a General Committee, comprising as far as possible members of each evangelical denomination, all of whom shall be chosen annually by ballot.

ARTICLE VI.

It is the duty of the President, or one of the Vice Presidents, to preside at all public meetings of the Association.

It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to notify the members of the time and place of meeting, attend the same, to notify all officers of their election, and to keep a fair and complete record of the transactions of the Association.

The Corresponding Sucretary shall be the organ of the Association in its conference with other societies, and shall retain copies of all letters written by him.

The Treasurer shall collect and pay all monies of the Association under direction of the Committee, shall keep a correct account of the same, and shall report, whenever required to do so, to the Committee, and to the Association at least once a year.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to keep in order all books and documents of the Association, to keep a correct catalogue of the same, and an account of all books delivered to all members.

It shall be the duty of the Committee to manage all the affairs of the Association, to make Bye-Laws, appoint Special Committees, decide on all applications for membership, appoint a Recording Secretary and Librarian, and take whatever steps may be necessary for the promotion of the objects of the Association.

ARTICLE VII.

That all the meetings of the Association and Committee shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ARTICLE VIII.

That the Committee possesses the power to suspend or exclude any member whose conduct may be found inconsistent with the character of the Association.

ARTICLE IX.

That no article of the Constitution be altered or amended or in any way dispensed with, except six months' notice in writing thereof be given, and then only if recommended by a majority of the Committee, and by a two-third vote of the members of the Association at a meeting called for the purpose, regular notice having been given at least two weeks previously.

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LIST OF MEMBERS.

Aarestrup, Albert Adams, Henry Adams, Henry Adams, J. A. Alexander, Neal Alexander, John Akina, T. B. Allan, James Allan, James Allan, James Allan, James Allan, James Andrew, George Armstrong, J. Avery, Dr. Ayers, Samuel Barnes, H. W. Barnstead, J. H. Barnstead, C. Barss, A. K. Barss, A. H. Peckwith, R. N.

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Young, J. B. 6

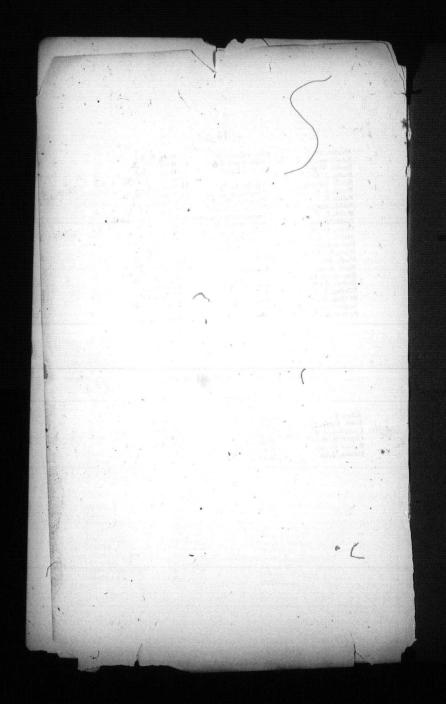
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YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,

183 Hollis Street, opposite Province Building.

LIBRARY AND READING ROOM,

Open every day (except Sunday) from 10 a.m., till 10 p.m.

LITERARY AND DEBATINC CLASS,

Every Monday evening from 8 till 10, during Winter.

LECTURES,

Every alternate Tuesday evening, during Winter, at Temperance Hall.

PRAYER MEETING,

Every Thursday evening from 8 till 9 o'clock; and the first Sunday in the month at half-past 4 o'clock.

BIBLE CLASS,

Every Saturday evening from 8 till 9 o'clock.

THE CENERAL COMMITTEE

Meets Quarterly.

STANDING COMMITTEES MEET WEEKLY.

Industrial School, Bible Society, British American Tract Society, and other Benevolent Societies, hold their Meetings in the rooms of the Association.

Applications for the use of the Committee Room may be made to the Secretary, at the Rooms, 183 Hollis St.