

Anniversary Number

OF THE

SHAFTESBURY HALL

WEEKLY BULLETIN.

PUBLISHED BY THE
TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 17, 1882.

Wherewithal shall a
young man cleanse
his way? by taking
heed thereto accord-
ing to thy word.

Psa. cxix. 9.

OFFICERS FOR 1882-83.



At the Annual Meeting held Tuesday evening, 10th inst., the following were elected as officers for the ensuing year:

- President*—Hon. S. H. Blake.
Hon. Vice-Presidents—John Macdonald, Daniel Wilson, LL.D., R. Baldwin, B. Homer Dixon, K.N.L.
Vice-Presidents—W. Anderson, R. Kilgour, J. J. Gartshore, H. B. Gordon, W. H. Howland, C. S. Gzowski, J. D. Nasmith, L. C. Peake.
General Secretary—Alf. Sandham.
Cor. Secretary—J. O. Anderson.
Librarian—W. A. Douglas.
Treasurer—John Harvie.
Directors—J. O. Bennett, D. C. Forbes, S. R. Briggs, Daniel McLean, J. Earls, H. O'Brien, W. Garside, J. J. Findlay, H. Cassels, W. F. Mountain, S. Caldecott, J. J. Woodhouse.

ABSTRACT OF REPORTS

PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL MEETINGS

HELD

Tuesday 3rd and Tuesday 10th

OCTOBER, 1882.

THE DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Has aimed not only to keep up and utilize the interest already manifested, but to increase that interest and extend the usefulness of the work. The following reports shew progress made in the meetings under its supervision.

THE DAILY NOON MEETING FOR PRAYER

Has been held without interruption. It has been a place of blessing to many, and strangers have oft-times given their testimony as to its helpfulness.

SATURDAY EVENING MEETING FOR YOUNG MEN.

If this meeting were a failure, all would be a comparative failure, for it is the most important social religious gathering held in our rooms. Reviewing the past there is cause for heart-felt thanks in the recollection of increased and increasing interest. Words spoken have been blessed of God to the saving of souls. Many letters on our fyle speak of encouragement received, resolutions strengthened, or new impulses imparted through this meeting: and an oft-repeated sentence is, "I miss the Saturday night meeting."

SUNDAY EVENING GOSPEL AND SONG SERVICE.

A marked and increasing interest has been manifest in this meeting. Instead of the falling off in attendance, usual during the summer months, the numbers increased, and on several evenings Shaftesbury Hall was well filled. But aside from this fact, the deep attention given, and the spiritual tone which has pervaded the meetings have encouraged the workers, and led to the salvation of some of the attendants. We need active workers to speak to those who remain at the close of the meeting.

BIBLE CLASSES.

We have endeavored by God's help to make Bible study a prominent part in our work, and we acknowledge the blessing which has accompanied the effort. The classes are three in number:

THE TEACHERS' BIBLE CLASS,

Held every Saturday afternoon. The interest taken is indicated by the fact that repeatedly our large parlor has been filled to overflowing.

THE SUNDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE CLASS

Has been maintained without any abatement in interest, and we have had repeated tokens of the Spirit's work among those present.

THE YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS,

Held every Monday evening has been steadily on the increase, and there is an evident deepening of the work of grace in the hearts of the young men. The study of the Word which is "able to build up" is entered upon with much apparent pleasure.

CLASS COMMITTEE.

This Committee has been relieved from the most trying part of its former duties, by the closing of the Gymnasium. This was not done without much prayer and consultation, and the greater the attention given the subject the more firmly convinced were the members of the Board that, as a rule, Gymnasiums are not necessary to the successful prosecution of *Christian* work. The room formerly used has been leased to the Toronto Coffee House Association, and

will henceforth yield a revenue instead of incurring expense. During the year, classes in Elocution, Drawing, Book-keeping and Phonography were sustained, and many of the members were much benefitted thereby.

LECTURES.

This Committee was successful in providing a series of Lectures by men whose Christian character and platform ability alike made them specially acceptable to the Association, and to the public generally. There were also several evenings of Readings, Music, &c. When it is borne in mind that, with but few exceptions, these gatherings were made free to the public, and in all cases free to members, it will be admitted that the Committee has well managed the course, when they are able to report a balance passed over to the Treasury.

EMPLOYMENT.

Forty-six permanent and over 100 temporary positions have been secured for applicants. There has been a marked increase in the number of applicants for employment, a large proportion being clerks, and therefore the public will understand the difficulties which have met the Committee in its work.

Men used to manual labor, such as farm hands or mechanics, have but little trouble in procuring employment; but, Toronto, like other cities in our land offers little or no inducement for clerks, &c., and much actual suffering would be avoided were the fact more widely known in the country districts and in the Old Land.

MEMBERSHIP.

The Membership list has been carefully revised, and none but those who have paid for the current year have been retained thereon. By so doing the number of members reported is less than some previous years, but, we have this advantage, the list is a *genuine* one. In revising the list we find that 104 young men have left the City, of which number 33 have gone to Manitoba, 157 could not be traced, that is, they had left the City, or changed boarding-houses, and no trace of their whereabouts could be discovered.

BOARDING HOUSE.

No department of our work has been so largely blessed as the work among boarding houses. The City has been mapped out into districts, to each of which two or more workers have been assigned. These districts have without exception been faithfully worked. Each house is visited once a week, and whenever practicable the young men have been personally spoken to, and invited to come to our Rooms and meetings. In this manner over 250 boarding houses (with an aggregate of over 3,000 young men living therein) have been visited each week, and, as might be expected, from such practical, earnest work, much good has resulted. Many strangers have been drawn to our Rooms, and among our workers to-day may be found some thus gathered.

The Fire Halls, Police Stations, and City Passenger Stables are also visited each Sabbath.

RECEPTION.

The duty of this important Committee is to arrange so that some of its members shall be in attendance at the Rooms each evening, to receive strangers, and extend to them a cheerful and hearty welcome. The Committee consists of 18 members, of which number from two to four are in attendance at one time, and there is reason to believe that words spoken to the strangers who have come among us have been blessed.

BOYS.

This work suffered a serious loss in the removal (from the City), of Mr. Edwards, who for years has faithfully labored with us.

During the year there have been many encouraging results. The meetings have been fully sustained, and there are indications of continued interest and attendance.

THE LIBRARY

Has been re-arranged and the books covered. There are on the shelves of the circulating Library 1,883 volumes, reference 145, total 2,028. The Librarian reports the Library kept in excellent

order, and the rules strictly enforced. At the close of the year there were but 2 volumes out beyond the time prescribed by the rules. The Reading Rooms are supplied with 1^o daily, 1 tri-weekly, 1 semi-weekly, 38 weekly, 2 fortnightly, 22 monthly, 2 quarterly and 11 illustrated papers or periodicals. The visits to the Rooms are increasing in numbers, and an addition should be made to the list of papers, &c.

DEAF MUTES.

The privilege accorded these friends is thoroughly appreciated, and the attendance at the Sunday afternoon service is quite as regular as that of any gathering for instruction or worship in the city. The service has been maintained without interruption. The attention manifested, and the very devout, decorous conduct of those who come are much encouragement in carrying on the work, and leads us to hope that the seed is being dropped into good soil, and will fruit out to His glory for whose sake it is sown. The Annual Social was held in March last, and the Picnic, at Lorne Park, in August. There is cause for thanksgiving that no shadow of death has passed through the little company during the year. Prayer is asked for a blessing on the endeavors to extend to this unobtrusive class of our community some of the benefits flowing from the work of a Y. M. C. A.

CHINESE CLASS.

Much success and, we believe, blessing has attended our efforts toward reaching this limited, and heretofore neglected class. The work was inaugurated about one year ago by an earnest member of the Association; and prior to his leaving the city, the Lord raised up another worker, equally zealous, and with the advantage of some knowledge of the habits of Chinese, added to which is the fact that he has leisure to devote to the work. The result of all is, that every Sunday afternoon our Bible parlor presents a busy scene. Out of some 18 Chinese now in Toronto, 14 have been induced to attend, and as each man has his own teacher, the room is well filled. The room has been decorated and made as

attractive as possible. An organ has been purchased, and no effort has been spared towards making the "celestial" visitors feel at home. The meeting is opened with religious exercises, which, while not understood, is calculated to lead to questions being asked, and then the Gospel can be presented. Thus far much of the work has been that of teaching to read and write English, and some have made good progress. In carrying on this work, the Association has been relieved from any financial responsibility through the generosity of the Chairman of the work.

CAMP WORK.

Few fields of labor are offered which give such scope for labor among young men as that opened up by the Brigade Camps which are held annually at different points in Canada. In these camps are gathered the flower of the youth of Canada; and certainly where such a harvest field is presented, there the Lord's workers should be engaged. Realizing our responsibility, we have for years past made it a point to be in camp with our fellow young men, and the testimony given by officers and men as to the good done by keeping the young men away from the canteens, &c., has of itself encouraged us. But we have had grander proof of the value of this work, in witnessing the anxious soul brought out of anxiety—the darkened soul emerging into the glorious light of the gospel—soldiers of Canada, loyal to their Queen and country, made still more loyal by becoming soldiers in the army of the living God, putting off sin and putting on the whole armour of God. Throughout Canada there are to-day many who thank God for the opportunity afforded them for hearing the glorious gospel preached in the Gospel Tent of the Y.M.C.A. on the camp ground.

Special interest was manifested in the work this year, and the testimony given our workers was such as to call forth gratitude to God.

The Tent was well supplied with papers and periodicals; and meetings were held daily, the tent being crowded each time. 5,000 copies of a special address to the volunteers were circulated and eagerly received. A special edition of the Bulletin was also printed

and did good service, not only in setting before the young men the work of a Y.M.C.A., but in presenting in very plain language the Lord Jesus Christ.

EXHIBITION GROUNDS.

The Master's work at the Exhibition Grounds opened under more favorable aspects than in any previous year. Through the good providence of God, we were enabled to make our tent more inviting in appearance and more comfortable in its interior arrangements. We are also encouraged at the interest manifested by visitors generally. If no other work were accomplished by the tent, it stood as a witness for the Lord. Its walls covered with texts of Scripture.—Its tables laden with Christian literature.—The voice of prayer and song—were of themselves sermons to those who passed by. It also testified to the world that we have faith in our work, and in Him who has called us to the work. In other words it is as remarked by a visitor who entered the tent one day. He took off his hat, stood in the centre of the tent, and looking round upon the arrangement made, and the people present, he exclaimed aloud "Thank God for this proof that Christianity is not dead yet."

The tent might be called a "Religious Exchange;" and it was pleasing to see young men and old men (yes, and ladies also) who were strangers to each other, but meeting within its walls soon entered into conversation, and found that by the grace of God they were alike children of the same Heavenly Father.

Through the liberality of one of our young men we were enabled to issue a large edition of a Stranger's Guide, with Scripture texts freely used. We are also indebted to the same friend for 1,000 Testaments which were distributed here and at the Niagara Camp.

SERMONS TO YOUNG MEN.

On the Second Sunday in Nov. last in response to a circular issued by our Association, special sermons were preached in forty-one of our City Churches. We have received testimony that in more than one instance the sermons resulted in conversions. We were gratified at the kindly manner in which our circular

was received by the Pastors, and accepted it as but another token of their entire sympathy with us in the work.

OUR BULLETIN.

This useful publication is issued weekly and has proved of much service to the work, in fact it has become an indispensable portion of our Boarding House work, and the only complaint made by the workers is the limited edition published. Twice the number could be profitably used. The paper is published without any cost to the Association beyond a trifling amount for weekly postage which is more than compensated for by the wide spread announcements of our several meetings.

FINANCES.

It is pleasing to note that while the legitimate work of the Association has in no way been curtailed, but in some instances extended, the expenses have been materially reduced. There is a balance due the Treasurer, which will, however, without doubt, be covered by subscriptions not yet collected.

OUR BUILDING.

We are daily being more deeply impressed with the need for increased and more accessible accommodation for the successful prosecution of our work. If we were but placed in possession of the lower part of the building, to be used as a meeting room into which young men might be invited as they pass along the street; we believe many now unreachd might be gathered in. There are many weighty arguments which we could present why this should be done, but space will not admit. We, however, ask our friends to consider the subject, and make it a matter of prayer.

RAILWAY WORK.

This work, which is rapidly growing in favor with the officials of the several roads centreing in Toronto, has been car-

ried on with a zeal equal to that of former years, and its influence has not only been felt in Toronto but has extended to outlaying railway centres. Much might be said on this extended general effort, in which the local committee has had no small share of the work, but this report must deal solely with that work entrusted to it in this city.

The meeting at Union Station is still held at three o'clock, every Sunday with a good average attendance. The meeting formerly held in the Toronto and Nipissing Station has been closed. This was deemed advisable owing to the removal of many of the men on account of the changes made in the Road. It was with regret this step was taken, as much good has resulted from the meeting. The committee has, however, arranged to hold a meeting hereafter at the Credit Valley waiting room, Parkdale. A Noonday meeting is held every Wednesday in the workshops of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce R.R., and Cottage meetings are held weekly in houses of the railway men.

The following are statistics as to the local work:—

Gospel and Song Services held	91
Attendance - - - - -	5,730
Cottage Meetings held - - -	171
Attendance ranging from - -	5 to 30
Average attendance - - -	13
Total attendance (above) - -	2,000
Noon Meetings held - - -	36
Total attendance (about) - -	500
Visits to Homes, average 2 per day	730
“ Hospital - - - - -	30
“ Sick and Injured - - -	150
Copies of “Our Special” published	8,000
“ “ “ distributed	8,000
Tracts, books, papers slips, invitations- - - - -	12,000
Portions of God’s word - - -	150
Parlor Conference held - - -	1
Public Meetings & Entertainments	1

Account could not be kept of the visits made to shops, sheds, round-houses, offices, depots, trains, yards, boxes, &c., or of the hundreds of interviews held at different times, with officers and men regarding the work.

GENERAL WORK IN THE ROOM.

The greater proportion of work done by our Young Men's Christian Association is of such a nature as to render a report of the same impossible. The number of young men spoken to, and advised with as to their temporal or spiritual interests—The hundreds of letters received bearing upon all matters—Enquiries after lost sons, wandering prodigals—Enquiries concerning business prospects, &c., each letter calling for a reply, and some entailing upon the officer in charge, the writing of several letters, and at times visits to remote parts of the City—Calls to visit the sick, to aid the destitute—These, with many other duties, go toward fully occupying the time of those entrusted with this work.

The number of strangers calling at the Rooms, has been very large, and the greatest wisdom, kindness, and oft-times, patience is called for, in dealing with them, so as to cheer, aid, or faithfully warn, as the case may require.

The blighting influence of the curse of intemperance is painfully apparent in carrying on this work. We keep a pledge book in our rooms, and during the year many young men have voluntarily signed the same. We always take an opportunity of informing them that pledges, though good, will never save men, that Jesus alone can do so.

We have during the past year made extra efforts toward letting the young men know that our building is designed as a Home for them; that they are welcome, whether members or not; and we are pleased to note a decided increase in the number of visitors. We are looking forward to the day when our building will be freed from the incubus of debt, and when from cellar to roof it shall be fully dedicated to the Lord, as an instrument in His hand toward the salvation of the young men of Toronto. The Devil's agents are lavish in the expenditure of money wherewith to fit up, gild, and beautify the traps wherewith to catch his prey. Shall we continue at such disadvantage as we now are in, or will God's children come to the rescue and by a little self-denial set us free and enable us to strike out more fully in our efforts to rescue the perishing? He has used us and our imperfect accommodation

toward saving some, and we praise His name, but we long for greater facilities for carrying the war into the enemy's camp.

We ask your prayers—your co operation—your practical, financial aid.

STATISTICS FOR 1882.

Daily Prayer Meetings	311
Average attendance	16
Young Men's Bible Class	51
Average	15
Evangelistic Bible Class	52
Average	55
Teachers' Bible Class	40
Average	173
Gospel and Song Services	52
Average	420
Boys' Prayer Meetings	39
Average	21
Lectures, etc.	25
Average	600
Sermons to Young Men	41
Young Men aided	73
Employment secured	146
Signed Pledge	59
Directed to Boarding Houses	112
Tracts distributed (pages)	274,000
Hand-bills, Invitation slips, etc. .	44,000
Strangers' Guides, special Address, etc., at Exhibition and camp .	20,000
BULLETIN issued	48,800
New Testament distributed	800

We would not attempt to say the number of letters written in our Rooms by strangers and received by us for them; the number has been very large.

Souls have been won for Christ. The true record is with Him, and to Him we give the glory.

TEACHERS' BIBLE CLASS

CONDUCTED BY

HON. S. H. BLAKE, Q. C.,

**Every Saturday Afternoon
at 4:50.**

OPEN TO ALL.

DON'T FORGET

THAT WE

EXTEND

TO

Every Young Man

IN

TORONTO,

HEARTY WELCOME

TO

OUR ROOMS.

COME!

**ALABASTER BOXES OF HUMAN
SYMPATHY.**

DO not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them. The kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours, and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them while I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without a eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kindness does not cheer the Burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.—*Selected.*

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them, who are of the household of faith.
Gal. vi. 10.

YOUNG MEN'S

BIBLE CLASS

EVERY MONDAY EVENING,

AT 8 O'CLOCK,

ALL INVITED.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

—1 Peter i. 23.

Remember

THE

EVANGELISTIC BIBLE CLASS

HELD

Every Sunday Afternoon,

AT 3 O'CLOCK, FOR ONE HOUR.

All are invited.

GOD IS LOVE.

**NINETEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**
Shaftesbury Hall, Tuesday, October 17th.

The **PRESIDENT** in the Chair.

PROGRAMME.

OPENING HYMN:

All hail the power of Jesu's name!
Lef angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem.
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And Crown Him Lord of all.

Oh that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.

READING SCRIPTURE	REV. H. D. POWIS.
PRAYER	" H. M. PARSONS.
ADDRESS	HON. S. H. BLAKE, <i>President.</i>

Work, for the night is coming!
Work through the morning hours.
Work while the dew is sparkling,
Work 'mid springing flowers:
Work when the day grows brighter,
Work in the glowing sun;
Work, for the night is coming,
When man's work is done.

Work, for the night is coming,
Under the sunset skies!
While their bright tints are glowing,
Work, for daylight flies.
Work till the last beam fades,
Fadeth to shine no more:
Work while the night is dark'ning,
When man's work is c'er.

ADDRESS	REV. W. S. RAINSFORD, M.A.
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I am thine, O Lord; I have heard Thy voice
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

Draw me nearer, nearer, *blessed Lord,*
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, *blessed Lord,*
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

ADDRESS REV. JOHN GORDON, D D., Washington St. Baptist Church,
Buffalo, N. Y.

One more year's work for Jesus,
One less of earth for me!
But heaven is nearer, and Christ is dearer
Than ere He was to me.
His love and light fill all my soul to-night.

One more year's work for Jesus;
How glorious is my King!
'Tis joy, not duty, to speak His beauty;
My soul mounts on the wings
At the mere thought how Christ my life has
bought.

One more year's work for Jesus,
One more year's work for Jesus,
One more year's work for Jesus,
One less of earth for me.

Oh, blessed work for Jesus!
Oh, rest at Jesu's feet!
There toil seems pleasure, my wants are
treasure,
And pain for Him is sweet,
Lord in Thy fear I'd serve another year.

DOXOLOGY.

BENEDICTION.