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Sixth Annual Report of Nova Scotia

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Committee of the Halifax Young Men's

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,

WITH

APPENDIX

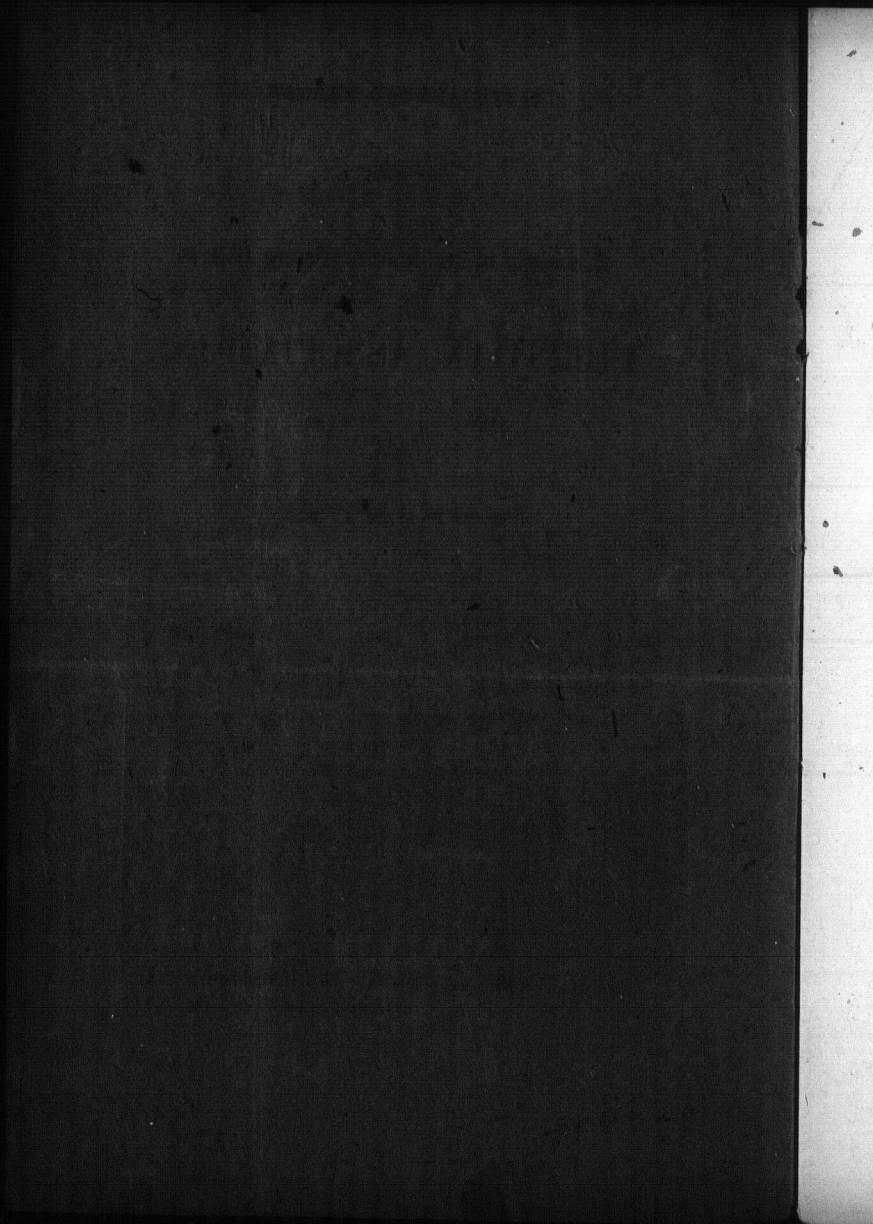
CONTAINING

Constitution and Rules, Treasurer's Accounts, List of Lectures,
to 31st March, 1860, &c., &c.

HALIFAX, N. S.:

READING ROOMS AND LIBRARY, 128 BARRINGTON STREET.

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[ELECTED 31ST MARCH.]

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GEORGE H. STARR, Esq.	

REPORT.

BORNE on the swift pinions of time your Association has arrived at the close of another year in its history. And its Committee beg respectfully to report upon the work committed to them during the past year. Within the circle of the Association few things have occurred differing from former years, though your Committee rejoice to open this Report with grateful acknowledgments to Almighty God for the manifestations of his love as brought out in his dealings with his Church and people during the year just closed, and which will be marked in the records of the Church as the Year of Revival; in which the means employed have been so singularly blessed to the conversion of so many of our race. In the work of Revival they rejoice that kindred Associations have been honoured to take so prominent a part, at once disappointing the taunting prophecies of their enemies whose confident boast was that such Associations were a combination of differences and consequently would soon come to an end. Instead of that, God has singularly blessed and prospered them, and perhaps at no period of the Church's history since the Pentecostal have the principles of your Association been so prominently brought out as in the present united effort to obtain from our Heavenly Father some of those blessings which flow from united, faithful, persevering prayer.

Your Committee are encouraged to report that even the Halifax Association has received an impulse from the general awakening. Your Bible Class has still been sustained without an interruption for the past six years. In addition to it another has been established, specially for young men, which

meets every Thursday evening, under the name of "The Young Men's Mutual Instruction Class." At your annual meeting it may be well to state the history and define the distinctions between the two meetings. During the summer, it was felt that Saturday evening was inconvenient for the attendance of the young men, who in many instances are more employed on that evening than any other in the week; proposals were made that the regular Bible Class should change the evening of its meeting, but those of your number who had formed and continued to regularly attend this means of edification, remembering so many pleasing associations connected with the Saturday evening as a "building up" meeting, declined a change which might be doubtful in the issue. It was then resolved by a number of young men to obtain the Room that they might form another Class: and that there should not be even the appearance of rivalry between the two Classes they asked and at once obtained the willing sanction of your Committee. In farther defining the relation of this Class to the Association they may state, that they are not recognized as a regular meeting of the Association, *i. e.*, they do not elect members nor transact any business of the Association as your Saturday evening Bible Class is sometimes called upon to do. But each of the young men takes the place of chairman in his turn. And already, your Committee trust, it has been productive of good: its attendance has been equal to the Saturday meeting, and yet they do not appear to encroach upon each other.

During the past Summer your Committee requested the delivery of a Course of Sermons to Young Men, by the Evangelical Clergymen of the city, which was cordially responded to by many of them, though the Course has not yet gone round all the Ministers. They regret to notice that, though all the efforts consistent with propriety were put forth to bring your young men under the influence of this special

means of grace, the attendance on those sermons indicate a lamentable lack of Church-going young men in this community. The following is the list of subjects and ministers who preached up to the 31st December:—

1. Public usefulness and devotion to the cause of God.— Acts xiii. 36. By Rev. S. W. Sprague.
2. The demand of God the Creator and Redeemer on the hearts of his Creatures. Proverbs xxiii. 26. By the Rev. T. Crisp.
3. The necessity of consideration, particularly on the part of Young Men. Hag. ii. 5. By the Rev. T. Jardine.
4. The Dangers of Young Men. Prov. i. 10. By the Rev. P. G. McGregor.
5. The duty and advantage of early Moral and Intellectual Culture. Eccl. xi. 16. By the Rev. G. Boyd.

They would present their grateful acknowledgments to the ministers who so promptly responded to their application, and would urge upon their successors to request a continuance of the series until all the Christian congregations in the city have their special attention directed to this important portion of the rising hope of the Church.

The Course of Lectures during the last Winter was well sustained throughout, and the closing Prayer Meeting held in Brunswick Street Chapel. The Rev. Professor King in the chair, prayers were offered up by the Rev. Mr. Churchill, the Rev. P. G. McGregor and the Rev. Mr. Jardine. Addresses by the Rev. Mr. Humphrey and the chairman. Owing to other circumstances, the meeting was not so well attended as was desirable. The current course (seventh) was inaugurated by a Prayer Meeting in Poplar Grove Church. The Rev. R. F. Uniacke in the chair. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. Mr. McNutt and T. Jardine. Prayers offered

by the Revs. Mr. Humphrey and Professor King. Scriptures read and Psalms given out by the Rev. Mr. McGregor.

Your Committee have much pleasure in announcing that the Course of Lectures presently delivering have been equal to any preceding it. The attendance, on account of the weather, has not been so propitious as on former occasions. They would hope that the remainder of the Course will be better attended. And yet, considering the state of the weather, the attendance has been better than could have been expected.

The thanks of the Association are due to all those who have been called upon to occupy the position of Lecturers, many of whom complied, at considerable personal inconvenience, without any farther reward than the consciousness of attempting to do good. And the Committee devoutly pray that those attempts will be fully responded to by those young men for whom those efforts are designed.

The Committee are encouraged to report the interest manifested in your Library as a pleasing indication that your work has not been in vain. Upwards of sixty volumes have been added during the past year, and there could not have been less than fifteen hundred volumes of works of a highly improving character sent to the homes and read at the firesides of the members of this community. And, though its twelve hundred and fifty volumes, many of which are standard works, entitle your collection to rank among the first Libraries of the Province, yet they feel that additions constantly require to be made to enable it to sustain its place among them. For this purpose, your Committee would recommend that something be devised to increase the income towards the Library; or a few books on the shelves of private individuals might, with small sacrifice on the part of their owners, be put in active circulation by being placed in custody of your Executive Committee.— At all events, many of the books of the Library have suffered from constant use, and an effort ought to be made to get them

bound along with the several periodicals of the past two years. An increase of Life Members would enable the Committee to accomplish those and other important improvements. They would recommend that the Secretary be authorized to call in all the books on some convenient time during the coming year.

Your Reading Room is still supplied with the London *Daily Times, News, Record, Athenæum, Watchman, British Messenger, Edinburgh Witness, Church Witness, Philadelphia Presbyterian, Provincial Wesleyan, Christian Messenger, American Messenger, Church of Scotland Record, Free Church Record, Christian Instructor, Evangelical Christendom*; the Family Treasury, Bulwark, Once a Week; the Edinburgh, Quarterly, London, Eclectic, and Princeton Reviews; Blackwood's Magazine, North British, &c., &c.

The Members' List of the Association is still gradually increasing, although changes that are incidental to a population such as Halifax have caused considerable change since the last annual meeting. Four of your Managing Committee and several members have left the city, some of whom were among the most active members of your Association and its early founders. Six new members were admitted, making the total number of active members admitted one hundred, ninety of whom now remain.

The annual income of the Association is also steadily increasing, though such amount in donations have not been received during the past as on former years. They gratefully acknowledge the following:—From Sir Brenton Halliburton, the venerable Chief Justice, £5; from W. Miller, Esq., £5; and from A. K. Doull, Esq., £2 10s.

The Financial Accounts of the Association will be found in the Appendix, and it discloses the discouraging fact that the expenditure has exceeded the income for the year. Under those circumstances they appeal to you in the hope that some

special effort should be made to sustain the expenditure of the Institution. The gold and the silver is the Lord's, and his people are the stewards thereof.

Your Committee would again thank the several proprietors of the city papers who kindly advertise the Lectures gratis. The proprietors of the Religious Periodical Press for copies of their publications sent to the Room. And particularly Mrs. Forrester, who has still generously allowed the Association to occupy the premises at the low rent of *twenty-five pounds* per annum, notwithstanding the recent rise in shop rents in this city consequent upon the late fire. Taking that view they would acknowledge this as a handsome donation.

While your Committee have observed with some satisfaction the success of your past efforts in behalf of Early Closing, they have had before them on many occasions the Half Holiday Movement; as you pressed it specially upon their attention at last annual meeting. If our young men would only show by their attention to the existing means of grace that they really prize such opportunities of self-improvement, then would your Committee feel more encouraged to press home the Half Holiday Movement by individual example, by the public meeting, lecture, and the press, and also endeavour to secure the influence of the pulpit towards securing the same end. In view of this, your Committee would desire you to invite young men to attend on the means and ordinances of religion, for it would be easy to lead them to see, that at the present time a vast majority of the clerks, students and tradesmen of this city are living far below their privileges and opportunities: but just in proportion as they desire to make progress in virtue and intelligence—they will obtain opportunities to prosecute those pursuits in which they take pleasure.

Your Committee would reciprocate the Christian expressions of esteem that have been received from several Associations. In particular, from those in the United States respect-

ing a union. And they have directed the opening up a correspondence with the Associations in your own Province for the obtaining of the like end ; to some of them answers have been received. It will be for their successors to devise and recommend some system of mutual help to those Associations in the scattered villages of our Province.

Among the other changes already alluded to in the list of your officers your Committee have to regret the resignation of Mr. Murray, who for five years held the office of Secretary, and to whom your Association is under deep obligations.— They testified this in an address presented to him on the occasion, which they expect you will approve. And as his testimony to the advantages derived from, and truly catholic spirit manifested in, the Association as given in the introduction to a very able Lecture lately delivered by him, and they would recommend that it be printed in Appendix to this Report.

There is yet much land to possess. Your Committee call to your notice the fields of human depravity, ripe and ready for the harvest. On referring to the last Report of the Philadelphia Association we have the following list of Standing Committees of Members of the Association, all in operation :

On Devotional Meetings ; On Essays and Reviews ; To aid Members and Strangers in selecting Places of Worship ; To aid Members and Strangers in selecting suitable Boarding Houses ; To aid Members and Strangers in procuring Places of Employment ; To visit Sick Members and Strangers ; To bring Young Men who are Strangers under Religious and Moral Influences ; On Missions ; On Credentials, &c., &c.

Some of those Committees would be unnecessary in a community such as Halifax, yet a certain portion of all those important interests respecting the young men of Nova Scotia and strangers have been left to the Managing Committee, who in their turn remitted it to the five persons composing the Exe-

cutive, who have found it considerable sacrifice to attend to the Financial Affairs, the Library, Rooms, Lectures, Sermons, and other matters arising in the course of the management of its affairs. One reason for this is, that men are often selected for the Managing Committee who have other and pressing engagements in the several Churches with which they are connected. They have borne the heat and burden of the work in the Association already. Others are elected for their high social position, and, it may be, take but a slight interest in the affairs of this Institution. If you are come to elect men to manage the affairs of the Association to-night, let it be your object to select such as will make attendance upon your business meetings matter of conscience.

There is abundant work for all, numerous untried, uninvited hands to engage in, and room enough for all to work, and your Committee would affectionately call upon you at this sixth annual meeting to gird up your loins and work while it is day. The night of death will soon come. Your means of usefulness and encouragements to work are enhanced from the fact that you are members of this Association, an institution that has a good name of years standing among all denominations loving the Lord Jesus. *That* will give you an entrance to the affections of many of the ignorant which you cannot obtain with the fact that you are simply a member of any Church in our city. You are encouraged to work from the circumstance that *lay* effort is encouraged by almost all denominations of Christians, and it is not now as when this Association was formed. Then many laymen, when called to speak a word for Jesus in public, often feared that he might be like Uzziah, putting forth his hand to the Ark of the Lord and meet *His* just displeasure for the act. The united testimony and invitation of so many of the regularly ordained servants of Christ ought to remove the fear, while the blessings which have followed the efforts put forth by devoted

laymen in this our day should stimulate those that have given themselves to the Lord Jesus to stir up the gift that is in them. Perhaps at no previous period of the Church's history was there a call for more earnest, energetic work than now. "You are not your own, but bought with a price."—Every one of us, is, to some extent, his brother's keeper. Intemperance, the giant sin of the day, has made fearful strides among our young men since this Association was formed, notwithstanding all that has been done by some Churches of Christ and the Temperance Organizations. Your young men in too many instances continue a course of Sabbath desecration. Your Churches are comparatively empty yet. Benevolent Institutions of a moral and religious kind are stunted in their growth. Prayer Meetings are yet but indifferently attended by young men. And while we gratefully acknowledge the past goodness of God to us, we do so with humility. For to what end have we met, if we have not been the means, in the hand of God, in reclaiming some erring brother, some of us putting forth no effort to testify that we work as well as pray, and pray as well as work.

The times are pressing, every mail that visits our shore brings delightful intelligence of God's wonder-working power in answer to prayer. In very many instances Christian Associations are the instruments honoured by God in bringing about this consummation. A letter from a valued member of this Association was received a few days ago, showing the London Association's workings. And why not similar movements here? Why is our Association so much like Gideon's fleece, parched and dry, when many of the surrounding spots are refreshed and wet with the dew of heaven? Is there no Achan in the camp, in our hearts? If so, may God in infinite mercy enable us to see it and fervently pray for its removal. And your Committee would humbly seek to ascribe all the praise to a Triune God.

DR.—The Halifax Young Men's Christian Association in account with the Treasurer—CR.

EXPENDITURES.

	1859.	
Books, Periodicals, Newspapers and Magazines,	£35 10 4	
SALARIES : Secretary, £65 0 0		
Sub-Librarian & Messenger, 8 0 0	73 0 0	
Rent—4 quarters to date,	25 0 0	
Hire of Temperance Hall for Lectures,	38 10 0	
Travelling Expenses of Lecturers,	3 0 0	
Printing Reports, Notices, Hymns, &c., &c.	11 15 0	
Petty Expenses, Gas, Fuel, Stationery, &c.	13 1 8	
Room Furniture,	1 17 3	
	<hr/>	
	201 14 3	

To balance due the Treasurer brought down,

1860.

To balance due the Treasurer brought down,	12 5 0
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Balance due the Treasurer 1st January, 1860,	£12 5 0
Books, Periodicals, Newspapers and Magazines,	19 19 5
Salary to Secretary,	16 5 0
Rent—1 quarter to date,	6 5 0
Hire of Temperance Hall for Lectures,	42 0 0
Travelling Expenses of Lecturers,	5 5 0
Printing Tickets, Hymns, &c.	3 15 0
Petty Expenses, Gas, Fuel, Postage, &c.	7 17 1
Insurance,	1 15 0
Room Furniture,	1 0 0
	<hr/>
	106 6 6

To balance due the Treasurer brought down,

RECEIPTS.

1859.

Balance in hand 1st January,	£42 4 10
Donations—from the Chief Justice, £5; Messrs. Doall & Miller, £7 10s.	12 10 0
Subscriptions to date,	74 5 6
Lecture Receipts since 1st January.	£24 2 7
Last Course,	34 9 4
Newspapers sold,	58 14 11
Balance due the Treasurer,	1 17 6
	<hr/>
	201 14 3

Errors Excepted.

CHARLES ALLISON, Treasurer.
Halifax, 31st Dec, 1859.

1860.

Lecture Receipts since 1st January, 1860,	£22 5 0
Donation from Chief Justice,	5 0 0
Subscriptions to date,	52 5 0
Balance due the Treasurer,	26 16 6
	<hr/>
	109 6 6

Errors Excepted.

SAMUEL H. BLACK, Acting Treasurer.
Halifax, 31st March, 1860.

APPENDIX.

Extract from Rev. Mr. Murray's Lecture.

(SEE PAGE 9.)

I need not assure you, Mr. Chairman, that it is with much diffidence I stand here to night. No one knows better than I what Lecturers and Lectures have been before you in times past. With one or two exceptions I have heard *all* the Lectures delivered before this Association from its very commencement, and they now reach the round number of sixty,—a number amply sufficient to make six handsome 8 vo. vols. I have been present at all its public Prayer Meetings except one.—For nearly five years I attended its Bible Classes, which met with scarcely any intermission every Saturday evening. And since I am no longer connected in any way with the Association, I may without breach of delicacy repeat here in public what I have often said in private—that many of the happiest hours of my life—hours of purest enjoyment which I never shall forget—were spent in this Association. While I feel myself personally its debtor to an extent which I cannot well express, I shrink not from saying that it has also laid the community in general under deep obligations. It has proved a bond of union and sweet Christian communion when the waters of strife were rolling all around. During the five years of my intimate connection with the Association I do not remember of one political or sectarian discussion, and quarrelling was with us one of the lost Sciences.

Let me remind you that the Association inaugurated the public union Prayer Meetings, now found so delightful. It also established a City Mission in our midst. Our young men owe to it the early closing of the shops, which is a credit to the community. It has also established a Library and Reading Room of unequalled excellence and accessible to the poorest Mechanic or Clerk in the city. Taking these facts and many more that I could mention into consideration, I hope this audience will join with me in saying to the Young Men's Christian Association—"Go on and prosper!"

Sixth Course of Lectures

DELIVERED BEFORE THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
DURING THE WINTER SESSION OF 1858-59.

- 1.—The agreement between the Books of Nature and the Book of Revelation in respect of the Narrative of Creation; by the Rev. James Robertson, D. D.
- 2.—The influence of Christianity on Communities and Nations; by the Rev. John Sprott.
- 3.—The Model Controversialist: or Satan with the Archangel concerning the body of Moses; by the Rev. S. T. Rand.
- 4.—The Works of God wonderful and full of instruction; by the Rev. George Boyd.
- 5.—True Greatness; by Mr. R. Miller.
- 6.—Mohammedanism; by the Rev. A. McKnight.
- 7.—The United States and the British Provinces contrasted from personal observation; by P. C. Hill, Esq.
- 8.—Modern Commerce, its History and Progress; by S. L. Shannon, Esq.
- 9.—Work—its objects and obligations; by the Rev. Professor Sawyer.
- 10.—The Physiology of the Sabbath; by the Rev. Dr. Forrester.

Seventh Course of Lectures

DELIVERED BEFORE THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
DURING THE WINTER SESSION OF 1859-60.

- 1.—On the Pleasures of Intellectual Recreation, and the materials for it in our own Province; by the Rev. G. W. Hill, A. M., Curate of St. Paul's.
- 2.—Revivals of Religion, their nature, results, and the means of their promotion; by the Rev. John Brewster.
- 3.—The Light and the Shadows: or Christianity the Ideal of our Race; by Mr. William Garvie.
- 4.—On the Men for the Age; by the Rev. Thomas Crisp, A. B., Curate of St. George's.
- 5.—The pleasures and advantages of Scripture Study; by the Rev. D. M. Welton, of Windsor.
- 6.—On the Cross—its struggles and its triumphs; by Mr. Robert Murray.
- 7.—The Manliness of Piety; by the Rev. E. E. Ross, of Londonderry.
- 8.—On Influence; by the Rev. William Sommerville.
- 9.—On Books, their relation to the Time and the Man; by R. Weatherbe, Esq.
- 10.—The Queen; by P. Lynch, Esq.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

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

ARTICLE II.

That the objects of the Association shall be

FIRST.—The improvement of the spiritual and mental condition of Young Men.

SECOND.—The formation of a Christian Library and Reading Room.

THIRD.—Rooms and accommodation for Bible Classes and Social Prayer Meetings.

FOURTH.—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 real vital religion may be promoted.

ARTICLE III.

That as it is the desire of the Association to admit no one to membership who does not give decided evidence of his conversion to God, therefore no person shall be proposed who shall not be a member in good standing of one of the evangelical denominations. He shall be proposed by a member of the Association at one of its meetings, and shall be elected by ballot by the general Committee, after a satisfactory inquiry as to his eligibility.

ARTICLE IV.

That all members of the Association subscribing Twenty Shillings and upwards, shall be admitted to the privileges of the Library, Reading Room, and Lectures.

ARTICLE V.

That any person of good moral character may become an Associate member of this Association by the payment of Ten Shillings annually, and shall be entitled to all the privileges of this Association, the right to vote excepted.

ARTICLE VI.

Any member on the payment of Ten Pounds at any one time, shall become a Life Member.

ARTICLE VII.

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

ARTICLE VIII.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

It shall be the duty of the President and 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 Secretary 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 accurate 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 By-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 IX.

All meetings of the Association, and of the Committee, shall be opened and closed with prayer.



Library and News Room

OPEN EVERY LAWFUL DAY FROM 9 A. M. TO 10 P. M.
128 BARRINGTON STREET.

Lectures

EVERY ALTERNATE TUESDAY EVENING DURING WINTER,
AT TEMPERANCE HALL, AT 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ O'CLOCK.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Class

EVERY SATURDAY EVENING, AT 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ O'CLOCK.

Young Men's Mutual Instruction Class

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT 8 O'CLOCK.

The General Committee

MEETS QUARTERLY.