



Third Annual Report

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

ALSO

Constitution and Rules.



HALIFAX, N. S.

READING ROOMS AND LIBRARY, 128 BARRINGTON STREET.

1857.



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Lectures Delivered

BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION DURING THE SESSION 1855-56.

1. Direct and Indirect advantages of Christianity, by Rev. R. Sedgewick.
2. Monachism, by Rev. D. Freeman.
3. Plurality of Worlds, by Rev. Dr. Cramp.
4. Columbus and his Times, by Rev. Thomas Dunn.
5. God in Language, by Rev. S. T. Rand.
6. Mohammed II., by Matthew H. Richey, Esq.
7. Outlines of Astronomy, by J. R. Mosse, Esq.
8. Hindoo Mythology, by Rev. Professor McKnight.

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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 Young Men not members of the Association shall be admitted to the privileges of the Society's Reading Room, Library and Lectures, on payment of Ten Shillings annually.

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.

Life Members.

The Hon. ENOS COLLINS.

“ “ S. B. ROBIE.

“ “ SAMUEL CUNARD.

JAMES C. COGSWELL, Esq.

MARTIN GAY BLACK, Esq.

WILLIAM MURDOCH, Esq.

JOHN H. ANDERSON, Esq.

GEO. H. STARR, Esq.

J. C. ALLISON, Esq.

DAVID ALLISON, Esq.

WILLIAM HARE, Esq.

WILLIAM CUNARD, Esq.

HENRY BOGGS, Esq.

WILLIAM B. FAIRBANKS, Esq.

CHARLES ALLISON, Esq.

Office Bearers.

PRESIDENT.

The Hon. BRENTON HALIBURTON, CHIEF JUSTICE.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

JAMES G. A. CREIGHTON, Esq.
 T. A. S. DEWOLF, Esq.
 JAMES F. AVERY, Esq., M. D.
 JAMES FORMAN, Esq.
 MARTIN GAY BLACK, Esq.
 JOHN W. RITCHIE, Esq.
 Hon. J. W. JOHNSTONE.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

WILLIAM HARE.

RECORDING SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN.

ROBERT MURRAY.

TREASURER.

CHARLES ALLISON.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

P. C. HILL.
 PETER LYNCH.
 S. A. WHITE.
 GEO. H. STARR.
 J. R. FORMAN.
 SAMUEL BLACK.
 FRANCIS JOHNSTONE.
 CHARLES ROBSON.
 ALEX. JAMES.
 P. BEUREE.

S. L. SHANNON.
 W. SAWERS STIRLING.
 THOS. A. BROWN.
 J. S. MACLEAN.
 THOMAS A. CRANE.
 D. McEWEN.
 WILLIAM MILLER.
 T. B. AIKINS.
 NEPEAN CLARKE.
 E. D. MEYNELL.

Report.

At the end of the third year of the existence of this Association, your Committee believe it has a firmer place in the affections of the Christian community, than at any previous period. The novelty attending its organisation has now worn away, but its friends are neither fewer, nor less liberal and faithful, than at the first. In all its efforts, your Committee believe that the Association has met with at least sufficient success to encourage perseverance and to excite earnest gratitude to the GIVER OF ALL GOOD.

The Library has been increased considerably during the past year. It now numbers nearly *eleven hundred volumes*, comprising the cream of historical, biographical, scientific, and theological Literature, also Travels and Belles Lettres. There is not a volume in the Library which may not safely and profitably be perused by old or young. Were ample means placed at the disposal of the Committee, many very valuable additions could be made to this department of the Institution.

The following *Newspapers* from Great Britain have been regularly received during the past year: London "Times," "Christian Times," "Record," "Watchman," "Illustrated London News," Edinburgh "Witness,"

"Evangelical Christendom," "Athenæum." Newspapers were also received from the United States, Canada, and New Brunswick.

The following *Reviews* and *Magazines* were received: "Edinburgh Review," "North British Review," "Quarterly Review," "London Quarterly Review," "Blackwood's Magazine," "Princeton Review," "Hunt's Merchants' Magazine," "Eclectic Magazine," "Household Words," "Excelsior," "Guide to Holiness," "Bulwark," "National Magazine," "Christian Instructor."

In addition to the above other *Magazines* and *Periodicals* are frequently laid upon the table for perusal.

The following *Donations* have been generously given to the Association during the past year: The Honble. the Chief Justice, (President) £4; William Miller, Esq., £4; William Hare, Esq., £3; George H. Starr, Esq., £21; the Trustees of Poplar Grove Church, £2 10s; the Congregation of St. Matthew's Church, (through his Worship the Mayor), £12.

The pecuniary position of the Association continues satisfactory, as appears from the following financial statement.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, 31st January last	-	125	17	9
Subscriptions to Library and Reading Room	-	84	1	8
Donations during the year	-	46	10	0
Collections 6 Lectures (last course)	-	27	4	6
Ditto. 3 do (present course)	-	23	11	8
Season Tickets sold	-	17	16	0
Sales of Newspapers	-	2	10	6
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		£327	11	8

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries to Secretary and Messenger	£73	0	0
Rent	23	15	0
Fuel, Gas, Printing, &c	19	8	5
Temperance Hall for Lectures, (last course)	29	12	6
Travelling Expenses to Clergymen to deliver Lectures	10	10	0
Grant to City Mission (second)	25	0	0
Books for Library	22	10	6
Newspapers and Periodicals, 2 years	30	2	10
	£233	14	3

Leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands 31st December, 1856, of £93 18s. 5d.

The number of members at present connected with this Association is *sixty-two*, showing an increase of five during the last year. The number of subscribers to the Library and Reading Room is *eighty-five*.

All strangers continue to have free access to the Rooms, as well as the Clergy of all donominations; also the pupils of the Deaf and Dumb School in this city.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Saturday evening meetings were better attended during last year than at any previous period. This the Committee take to be a very cheering symptom. "Yet there is room," and the Committee hope and pray that during the coming year many more young men will be induced to attend. A Public Prayer Meeting was held in connection with this Association on the 29th of April last, in the Temperance Hall. At the suggestion of the London Association, the first week of November was set apart by this Association for Prayer for the conversion of young men. The meetings held in the course of that week were deeply interesting.

The Committee at the suggestion of one of its members invited ministers of various denominations, to preach sermons in connection with this Association in their own churches; the sermons to be addressed specially to young men. The request was very kindly acceded to, and sermons were preached in the following churches: St. George's Church, St. Matthew's Church, St. Andrew's Church, Chalmer's Church, Poplar Grove Church, Brunswick Street Chapel, Granville Street Chapel, and Grafton Street Chapel. This was a new feature in the movements of the Association, and the Committee are happy to report that the plain and powerful addresses delivered were attended by large audiences and listened to with marked attention by those for whose special benefit they were intended.

The *Course of Lectures* last winter was well attended; still, owing to the system of free admission, it was attended with pecuniary loss to the Association. This year the Committee have determined on a small admission fee, and so far as their experience yet goes, they find that it is a more satisfactory system in every respect. A list of the Lectures delivered last year appears in another place.

Correspondence has been held and Reports have been exchanged with upwards of thirty kindred Associations in Great Britain, the United States, and the Provinces.

In November last the attention of the Committee was directed to the subject of "EARLY CLOSING,"—a subject which has recently attracted a large share of attention in the leading cities of England and Scotland, and which the Committee felt to be of great practical importance here.

The Committee were unanimous as to the desirableness of closing all places of business at an early hour on Saturday evenings; and a sub-Committee was appointed to take the subject into further consideration. No practical step has hitherto been taken; but the Committee trust that in course of another year, with the blessing of God, and the co-operation of the Christian community and especially of the "YOUNG MEN," important steps may be taken that will prove equally advantageous to merchants and their customers, to employers and those employed.