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No. 8.

THE

PORTFOLIO

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION  
- OF THE -  
Northern Congregational Church  
TORONTO.

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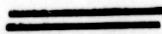


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TORONTO.

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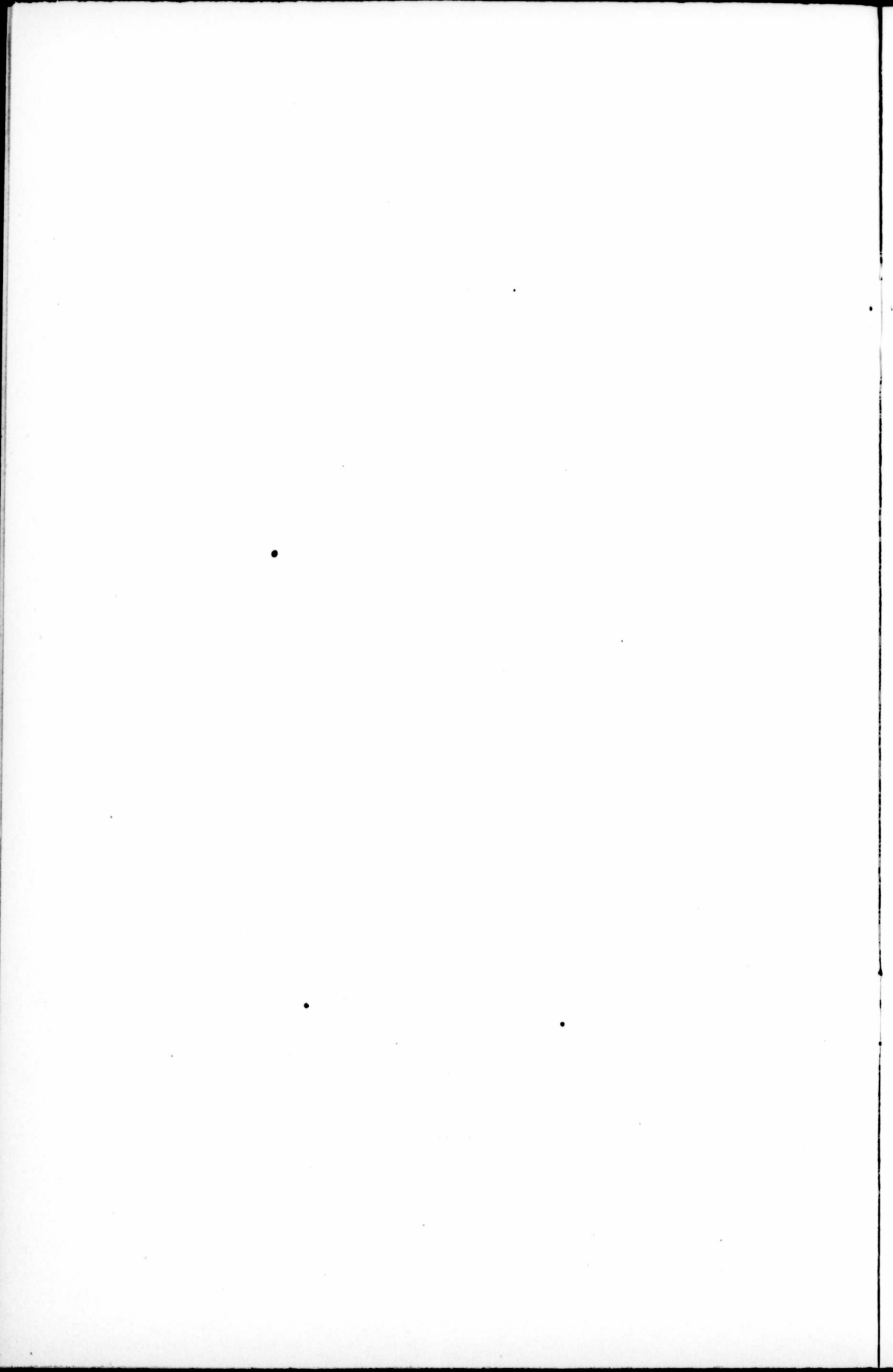
Edited by R. PATCHING.

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1886--1887



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# THE PORTFOLIO.

The Magazine of the Northern Congregational Church  
Young Men's Association.

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VOL. I.

TORONTO, MAY, 1887.

No. 7.

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At the close of the first cycle in our life as a magazine, a few words may not be out of place. Much that might appropriately be said here is embodied in the Annual Report in another column, and we have little to add thereto. Thanks to the sympathy of our friends and the energy of some of our members, the success attending the initial steps of our venture has equalled all reasonable expectation; but we are very far from being satisfied. The advice "to rest and be thankful," which more than one has tendered, awakens no answering echo in the editorial breast, but rather is there the feeling that when so much success has attended such partial endeavor, far greater is in store for more united and earnest organization next season. Why should we not triple the number of pages in each monthly issue, and multiply our present circulation by ten? There is no reason at all, if everyone concerned will make a personal matter of it *and do so at once*. Hunt up new subscribers *now*. Think of us during your holidays and note all the interesting particulars of your adventures at home or abroad, that we may enjoy them too when winter comes again. Cannot every one of our friends feel that it is incumbent upon him or her to contribute at least one article before October arrives? Gentle reader, this last request is to YOU, and to nobody else in the wide world. We shall appear again, all being well, about the middle of October. Surely four months is sufficient wherein to comply with so reasonable a request. Several of our lady friends have helped us in the past, but we know there are many more yet unknown to fame. Swell the ranks of our contributors, don't be afraid of overburdening us—our salaried staff has been doubled by the committee in anticipation of the increased business of this department, and they are prepared to double it again if necessary. *Verb sap. Au revoir!*

## OUR ASSOCIATION.

The last three meetings of our session, 1886-7, were all well attended, and much interest was manifest in the proceedings thereat.

A report of the papers read and other business transacted on April 29th, will be found elsewhere.

The closing open evening at Mr. Baird's on the 13th ult. was as usual a success, both in attendance and in the sustained interest of the programme. After reviewing the past and studying the present of our country's history, the endeavor was made in the debate this evening on the "Destiny of Canada," to dip into the future. Mr. H. Granfield in advocating "Annexation" presented an array of facts and figures, showing the commercial, social, religious and other advantages, which he claimed would accrue to Canada when she joined her neighbor to the south. Mr. E. H. Harcourt fired with patriotism and intoxicated with visions of "the great nation" we are one day to become, pressed the cause "Independence," while Mr. J. G. Thompson filled with the deep reverence and filial affection for the ould counthrey, which is proverbial with Irishmen just now, champion the "Imperial Federation" scheme and begged almost with tears that the thought of ceasing to be an integral part of the Empire should never enter our minds. In reviewing the speeches and rendering a verdict at the close, Mr. H. J. Clark, who kindly officiated as critic in the absence of our Hon. President, dwelt upon the points or lack of points made by each speaker, and declared that Mr. Granfield's advocacy of Annexation had carried the most weight with him, and awarded him the palm accordingly.

## THE BRITISH DEPENDENCIES.

At the Association meeting at Mr. McDunnough's on April 29th, the programme called for five essays upon the "British Dependencies." The writers of two of these failed to put in an appearance, but the three who filled their engagements gave us capital papers and added not a little to the value of the season's work.

### ASIATIC.—MR. H. J. ANDERSON.

Mr. H. J. Anderson read the first essay in which he dealt with those portions of the Empire situated in Asia, including India, Ceylon, Hong Kong, the Strait Settlements, Sarawak, Burmah, Aden and Cyprus, etc. These were treated in detail with particulars of the history, climate, population, government, religion and commerce of each.

### AUSTRALASIAN.—MR. S. F. CUTHBERTSON.

The second paper on the programme, that by Mr. S. F.



Cuthbertson on Australia, was penned in a racy and entertaining vein. He pointed out how little we really knew of our great sister-colony in the South Pacific, peopled by those who are "fully as enlightened and clever as we Canadians!" Referring to the early history of this vast dependency the writer remarked: "Few countries have started with more inauspicious surroundings than the country of which I speak to-night; it was founded in 1788 as a convict settlement. The British Government having to find some place where they could banish their convicts—the further away the better—decided on this land, little dreaming at the time what an important *role* it would play in the drama of the world. What an awful basis on which to build a country; what hindrances and disastrous effects this would naturally have in the settlement of a new land! As we picture these outcasts disembarking from the convict ship, leaving behind, perhaps forever, those who were near and dear to them, we cannot but think what a contrast from that other picture of the Pilgrim Fathers offering up their praise and thanksgiving on Plymouth Rock!"

The discovery of gold in 1851 was the turning point in Australian history. "The pulse of the community which but a short time since beat quietly, at once mounts to fever heat; there is but one theme on every lip and that is—gold! It intoxicates the whole body of the people, they rush pell mell to the various spots where the dazzling metal is supposed to be. The laborer leaves his implements, the mechanic quits his bench, the clerk his desk, the merchant his counting house, the lawyer his case, all is deserted; men of every class and character flock from all countries in the world drawn by the one powerful magnet—gold. Yet in the outbreak of that gold fever we can recognize the hand of God working for good in drawing the young men from the overcrowded countries of the old world to that new land which so urgently needed them." Mr. Cuthbertson concluded his paper with an interesting sketch of the aboriginal Papuan or Austral-negro race.

AMERICAN.—MR. W. COPP.

In dealing with the above division of the programme, Mr. W. Copp had an extensive subject to handle, including as it does the Dominion and Newfoundland in North America, Honduras in Central America, British Guiana and the Falkland Islands in South America, together with the West Indian Islands. Very naturally the essayist found our own country the most attractive item in this list and although so much of our session has been given to the same subject he was at no loss to find sufficient new material wherewith to compile an entertaining and useful paper. As he very truly remarked "we have heard but little of the everyday life of our people and how they have been faring and what they have been doing in the struggle for existence." Taking this then as

his text, so to speak, the essayist gave many useful and interesting facts, more particularly in reference to the trade and commerce of our land, and the educational system under which the younger generation are growing up; and concluded:—

“And surely there is something to learn from all this. Truly there is a great nation forming here in our Canada, and of this nation we are part and we have a part in the making of it. For the influence we exert whether for good or for evil will be an ever widening circle. Let us then as men strive to be worthy of the name—our minds filled with ennobling thoughts, our hearts filled with love to our fellow men, and our hands ever ready to help those who need assistance. It is not by the number of our days that the value of our lives is to be estimated, but by what we accomplish therein.

“We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;  
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.  
We should count time by heart throbs. He most lives  
Who thinks most, feels noblest, acts best.”

---

#### Y. M. A. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

---

The Annual Business Meeting of the Y. M. A. for the reception of the various reports and financial statements, the election of officers, etc., was held at the pastor's house on the 27th ult. The following is a summary of the proceedings:

SECRETARY'S REPORT.—Your committee have pleasure in presenting to you their Annual Report for the Session 1886-7. We have held fourteen regular meetings during the past winter, and one special meeting in August. The programme has been somewhat altered as compared with previous sessions; notably in this respect, public lectures have been given on Friday evenings, and counted as meetings of the Association. We may here mention, that having now experimented as to the advisability of these lectures being delivered on Association meeting nights, we think that it will be better, if the Association decides to have lectures next session, to run a course of them separately from the Association meetings. This would give more room for our literary contributions, and help to keep up that interest and *esprit de corps* which is so necessary for an Association like ours. Last season it was thought that, on the whole, the programme was a little heavy, and the subjects of too deep an import. It seemed to be the wish that the younger members should take a more active part in the meetings; and that the programme should be made a little lighter to enable them to do this. Your committee, in compiling the pro-

gramme for the session now drawing to a close, have in a degree, endeavored to follow this idea, and as a result the younger members have been brought more to the front than heretofore, which has been an improvement, showing as it has, of what our junior members are capable. We regret to record the fact that the meetings this season have not been as well attended as have those of previous sessions, nor has the programme been as well sustained as might be wished. It has on several occasions been changed, postponed or omitted; often, it is true, unavoidably. This should as far as possible be remedied. However, while we have not been improving in these respects we are not behind in the standard of our essays, debates, etc. The essays, although some were short, all tend to show that the subjects have been well read and carefully prepared. Our debates have been well sustained, and the arguments on both sides logically handled, while the minor parts of our programme have also received careful attention. The Cook lectures, delivered under the auspices of the Association, were, we need not say, a decided success. The other lectures which were very kindly delivered for us by Rev. W. Cuthbertson, Mr. S. E. Roberts and our pastor, were, we have reason to believe, much appreciated and enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to hear them. We would here thank those gentlemen who so ably entertained us on these occasions. Our monthly magazine, *THE PORTFOLIO*, has been issued every month from November to June inclusive, and we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the success of this undertaking, as the magazine under the able management of the editor, has met with the approval it so justly merits. Your committee have met twelve times to arrange matters and transact the Association business. The finances are in good condition; the available balance at the present time being \$41.25, part of which was made up by a donation of \$26 from the Cook lectures fund, the balance from which (\$250) was applied to start a fund to reduce the church debt. The Sunday morning prayer meetings are still continued as they have been in the past, and are fairly successful. We cannot close this report without reference to the loss we have sustained in the departure of Mr. D. S. Hamilton for Montreal, who, as you are well aware, has gone to that city to pursue his studies for the ministry. Our prayers and heartiest good wishes follow him, and we look forward with pleasure to the time when he will be in our midst again. In conclusion we would thank our many friends in the church and congregation who have so hospitably entertained us, and thrown open their houses for our fortnightly meetings. And we would here impress upon the members the necessity of sustaining an interest in our Association work, and that when the new session opens all may come forward ready to do their share of the work, strength-

ened by the hope that He who has helped and sustained us in the past may still continue to bless us in our undertakings.

Signed on behalf of the committee.

E. S. ROBERTS, *Sec.-Treas.*

MAGAZINE REPORT.—In presenting the first report of THE PORTFOLIO—the Association Magazine—your committee feel that they may congratulate you upon the success attained so far. It will be in the recollection of most of the members, that the proposal to publish a printed monthly paper, when first mooted was declared impracticable and rash in the extreme ; and even when your committee, taking the matter into their own hands, decided upon the venture, few believed the result would be satisfactory ; but at the close of this, the initial volume, your committee have no fear of encountering the adverse criticism of any member upon the action they took in the matter. THE PORTFOLIO has been issued eight times from November to June, inclusive. The number of articles contributed has been 56, filling 86 pages, and no less than 30 of our members and friends have been represented therein.

“The object of publication as stated on the first page, viz.: “to serve as a permanent record of the doings of our society, to be the news sheet of the church and congregation, and to afford a channel of communication *inter alia*, and perchance occasionally with the outside world as well,” has been kept steadily in view, and your committee venture to think, with some degree of success. The lectures and open nights, together with the proceedings at ordinary meetings have been carefully and fully reported, the work accomplished at the social Bible meetings has received attention ; Church news, Sunday School news, and many items of denominational interest, have each found a place in its columns, and the monthly issue is looked for and welcomed with genuine interest by the large majority of the subscribers.

Financially you have no cause for apprehension, there being but a very small deficit, and your committee see no reason why next year's issue should not be entirely self-supporting, when, with all the difficulties attending a first year's course, the two sides of the accounts are so nearly balanced. In conclusion, your committee desire to return their hearty thanks to the many friends who have given practical assistance in contributing to the columns of THE PORTFOLIO, reports, items of news and articles, and trust that next season will witness increased interest and support on the part of our friends, and a corresponding improvement in the paper itself, both in quantity and quality.

Signed, R. PATCHING, *Editor.*

After the above reports and the financial statement had been discussed and adopted, Mr. J. G. Thompson moved and Mr. C. E. Corbold seconded the following resolution : “That whereas Mr. McDunnough has filled the office of President of this Associa-

tion during the past six years, and whereas the Association has risen during his presidency to a point of influence, usefulness, and general excellence hitherto unattained, and whereas he this year retires from the office of President; therefore be it resolved that the Association takes this opportunity to place on record their high appreciation of his long and valuable services realizing as it does in some measure the deep interest he has taken in its general welfare, the faithfulness and ability with which he has kept his engagements and discharged the duties of his office, and the large share he has taken in every department of Association work; also to mention the high esteem in which he is held by the members in general for his kindness and hospitality, and the numerous personal talents with which he is so liberally gifted; and to express the hope that it will still retain his interest, and benefit from his wise counsels; and they pray that he may be long spared to work among the young men of our church as he has hitherto so successfully done; and that his bow may abide in strength, the strength of the mighty God of Jacob."

The mover and seconder were followed by the pastor and several members, all of whom most cordially endorsed the terms of the resolution which was eventually carried by a standing vote amid much enthusiasm.

Mr. McDunnough feelingly returned thanks, expressing the great interest and pleasure the affairs of the Association had always given him, and assuring the members that, looking as he did with a father's eye to its welfare he should always retain the warmest feelings of affection for its prosperity and should ever desire for it the best of good results in the future. He concluded by offering a few words of sound advice for the guidance of the society hereafter, urging the members especially to cultivate a true and earnest patriotism and loyalty to their Association and not to neglect the spiritual objects of their organization in following the intellectual, but strive to be true men, to be Christian men, to be Christ-like men, to make the Lord Jesus their personal friend, that they might feel he was always with them to guide, succor, and comfort in all that might befall them.

The election of officers was next proceeded with, additional interest being given to this annual excitement from the fact that the newly amended constitution limits a consecutive term of office to two years. After the usual display of modesty on the part of members nominated to office and general suspense on the part of everybody, the following results were announced: Hon. President, Rev. John Burton, B.D. (acclamation); President, H. L. Thompson (acclamation); 1st Vice-President, J. G. Thompson (acclamation); 2nd Vice-President, W. Copp; Editor Magazine, R. Patching (acclamation); Business Editor Magazine, E. S. Roberts; Secre

tary-Treasurer, E. H. Copp (acclamation) ; Committee, C. E. Corbold, R. B. Harcourt, Frank Hessin, Jas. McDunnough.

The Society now stands adjourned till the first Friday in October.

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### CHURCH DEBT EXTINCTION FUND.

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The following is a list of the subscribers to the above fund up to date :

Subscribed for five years, an equal amount payable each year.

P. H. Burton, -	\$1000	E. M. Trowern, -	\$100
C. Page, -	1000	F. J. Smith -	100
Henry Smith, -	1000	H. L. Thompson, -	100
H. J. Clark, -	250	T. Webb, -	100
S. C. Kanady, -	250	T. Hodgetts, -	100
Julian Sale, -	250	A. G. Hodgetts, -	100
E. J. Joselin, -	125	H. O'Hara, -	100
C. Joselin, -	125	Wm. G. Perry, -	100
C. J. Page, -	125	Wm. Stark, -	100
Jas. Smith, -	100	T. Speight, -	50
J. B. How, -	100		
T. J. Wilkie, -	100		
			<hr/>
			\$5375

Subscribed for this year only :

J. D. Nasmith, -	\$100	J. E. Thompson, -	\$25
J. Carruthers, -	100	T. Wickson, -	10
H. N. Baird, -	50		
			<hr/>
			\$285
			<hr/>
			\$5660

The above list is still open, and Mr. Henry Smith, Treasurer, or, Mr. F. J. Smith, Collector, will be pleased to receive additional subscriptions from any members who feel so disposed.

The Young Men's Association and the ladies have secured a number of contributions to the "10 cents a week" donation, inaugurated by Mr. and Mrs. McDunnough, which will materially increase the above amount.

Besides which there is the \$250, proceeds from the Joseph Cook lectures, which has been paid in to the Treasurer.

The sum of \$1000 was paid off the debt on the 8th ult., leaving a balance of \$6000, and it is hoped it will be further reduced by \$500 next November.

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A few complete sets of THE PORTFOLIO may still be had at fifty cents (50c.) the set. Early application to the Editor is necessary to ensure securing copies.

### NOTES BY THE WAY.

---

The closing Social Bible Meeting for the season was held on May 20th at Mr. McDunnough's, Rosedale Road. The evening was a perfect one so far as the weather was concerned, and it was half past eight before the friends could be gathered into the house, so delicious was the air outside, laden as it was with the perfume of apple, pear, and other blossoms. There was quite a large attendance, over thirty being present. In the absence of Mr. Crombie, who was detained in Collingwood, Mr. McDunnough conducted the meeting, which took the form of a praise meeting. Miss Williamson took charge of the singing, and Mr. H. L. Thompson, Mr. McGillicuddy, of Goderich, and the Pastor each gave short appropriate addresses. Thus closed a series of meetings which have been enjoyed by all attending, and which have without question been a means of blessing. If spared through the summer we trust that in the fall an increased interest will be taken in these meetings.

---

For a keen appreciation of constitutional usage, and a deepseated reverence for law and order commend us to the members of the Y. M. A! For a solid hour the other night they struggled with the problem whether the Committee had power to change the evening of a meeting from the Friday to the following Tuesday, when it was impossible to hold it on the Friday, and was therefore a question of changing or dropping altogether. After tremendous brain-cudgelling and brilliant oratorical effort on the part of nearly every member present, it was decided that notwithstanding the constitutional power of the Committee "to manage the affairs of the Association," they had exceeded their powers in this matter. It therefore stands recorded that the Y. M. A. wasted one evening on April 5th in holding an illegal meeting, and half of another on April 29th trying to find out about the first! Verily, a profitable record.

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As a result of this decision, the amendments adopted on April 5th, and recorded in THE PORTFOLIO, last month, (see page 70,) were of none effect and had to be resubmitted on April 29th. The clause providing that none but retiring Committee-men should be eligible for the offices of President or Vice-President was lost, the rest being adopted as before.

---

It was a surprise to many that the legality of the meeting on April 5th, was called in question in the manner it was. That any member or members should deliberately raise an aimless discussion, and waste a large part of an evening therein, thereby trespass-

sing upon the kindness of our host by lengthening the meeting, that time might be afforded to carry out the programme, is bad enough, but when in addition to this the prime movers unblushingly and openly avow they did it "for the fun of the thing," a very deplorable state of affairs presents itself. One man's meat is another man's poison, and on the same principal, what appears funny to one is painful to another; and a frequent repetition of such proceedings as are here referred to, would be most injurious, if not fatal, to the Society.

---

The persistent rumor has been current also that on the above mentioned occasion the meeting was packed for certain purposes. Whether this be so or not, the significant fact remains that the only vote of the "unconstitutional meeting" which was reversed, was most emphatically carried into practical effect at the election of officers on the 27th.

---

It is whispered that the letter in our last issue from "Sphynx," has aroused considerable comment in some quarters, the assertion being freely made that "Sphynx" doesn't know what he is talking about. Possibly not, he is but one of the junior members of the church, and liable to err in matters of church discipline, but if he be really in error it is to be regretted that none of our better informed friends have taken the trouble to enlighten him and others like him.

---

It went against the grain with our esteemed critic *pro tem.*, on the occasion of our last debate, to have to decide in favor of "Annexation," but then what could he do! The man who makes out the best case must win, and the critic's personal feelings receive but little consideration.

---

Several improvements and new features are already in contemplation for next year's PORTFOLIO. One slight change will be the date of issue, which will be about the 15th of the month instead of the 1st, that being a more convenient date to all concerned.

---

CHARLES DICKENS.—Apropos to the notice in last month's issue on Mr. Thompson's essay on the Novelists, a correspondent sends us the following which will interest many of our readers:

The following curious catalogue of Dickens' works is worthy of preservation. *Oliver Twist*, who had had some very *Hard Times* in *The Battle of Life*, and had been saved from the *Wreck of the Golden Mary* by *Our Mutual Friend*, *Nicholas Nickleby* had just finished reading *A Tale of Two Cities* to *Martin Chuz-*



*stewit*, during which time *The Cricket on the Hearth* had been chirping right merrily, while *The Chimes* from the adjacent church rang out, as indeed they did *All the Year Round*, when *Seven Poor Travellers* commenced singing a *Xmas Carol*. *Barnaby Rudge* then arrived from the *Old Curiosity Shop* with some *Sketches by Boz* and *Pictures from Italy* to show *Little Dorrit* who was busy with *The Child's History of England*, when *David Copperfield* who had been taking *American Notes* from *The Pickwick Papers* entered, and informed the company, among whom were *The Strange Gentleman* and *The Village Coquettes*, that the *Great Expectations* of *Dombey and Son* regarding *Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy* had not been realized and that he had seen *Boots at the Holly-Tree Inn* taking *Somebody's Luggage* to *Mrs. Lirriper's Lodgings*, in a street that had *No Thoroughfare*, opposite *Bleak House*, where *The Haunted Man*, who though *Hunted Down* had just given one of *Dr. Marigold's Prescriptions* to an *Uncommercial Traveller*, was brooding over *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

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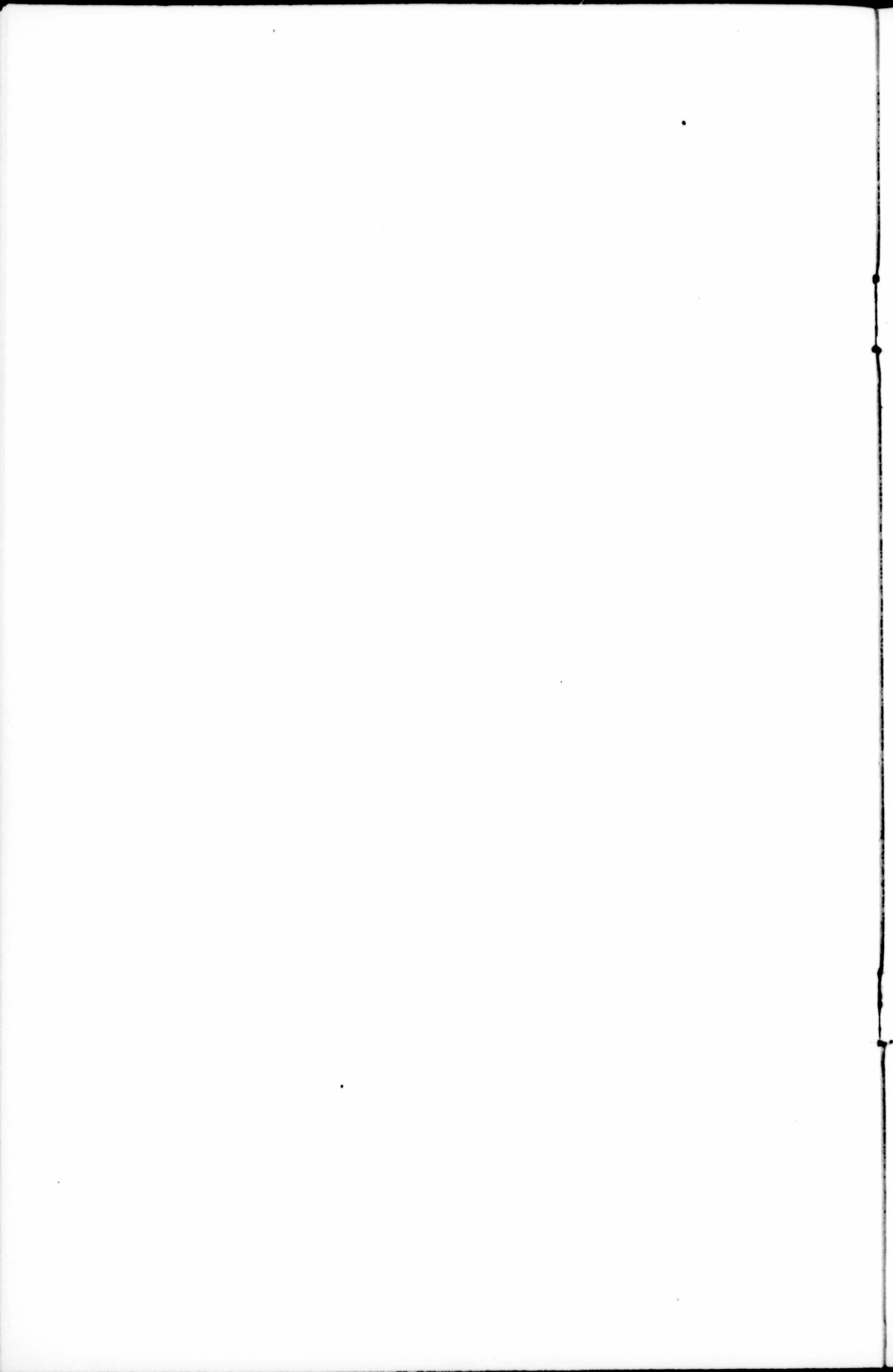
#### NOTA BENE.

THE PORTFOLIO is published on or about the first of each month, from November to June, inclusive, eight numbers yearly. Annual subscription, Fifty cents; Single copies, Ten cents each.

Our friends outside the members of the Association are cordially invited to contribute to our columns, short papers (to fill about one side of a sheet of foolscap), items of news and correspondence on any topic of interest are specially welcome. Articles may appear over writers' signatures or not, as preferred; but *must* always be signed for the information of the editor and in evidence of good faith, though not necessarily for publication.

Contributions should be mailed by the 20th of each month to insure attention in the next issue.

All communications should be addressed, and subscriptions paid to the Editor, R. PATCHING, Toronto Arcade. All subscriptions payable *in advance*.



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