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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIRST DOMINION CONVENTION
OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS,

ALSO THE
Tenth Annual Convention of the Associations

IN THE
PROVINCES OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC,

HELD IN QUEBEC,
SEPTEMBER 13TH TO 17TH, 1877.



PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Montreal :
PRINTED BY LOVELL PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.
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Cornwall
Hamilton
Ingersoll
Ottawa ..
Port Hope
Sarnia...
Toronto..
Kingston..
Que'ph...

Montreal ..

Sherbrooke
Quebec....

Antigonish
Bridgetown
Halifax...

Pictou.....
Richmond..
Truro.....
Yarmouth..

Fredericton
St. John ...

Charlottetown

LIST OF DELEGATES.

ONTARIO.

Cornwall H. C. PATTERSON, W. DINGWALL.
Hamilton W. GIVIN, A. NEIL, A. B. SMITH.
Ingersoll A. T. COWAN.
Ottawa RAYMOND ROLPH, SAMUEL ROLPH.
Port Hope P. GOTHWAITE.
Sarnia HON. A. VIDAL, T. W. NISBET.
Toronto W. P. CROMBIE, T. A. WILKIE.
Kingston CONROY DOBBS.
Queph T. GIBSON.

QUEBEC.

Montreal GEORGE HAGUE, P. SINCLAIR, D. A. BUDGE, JOHN CURRIE, W. FRISBY, R. HENDERSON, REV. L. GAETZ, FRED. E. JODERY.
Sherbrooke J. A. GAULD, WM. ADDIE.
Quebec HENRY FRY, J. C. THOMSON, R. R. DOBELL, G. A. HENDERSON, W. C. SCOTT, W. BROWN, JAMES PARK, G. LAMB, J. STUART, JAMES HOSSECK, T. S. COLE, E. T. D. CHAMBERS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Antigonish W. R. WHIDDEN.
Bridgetown MINER TUPPER.
Halifax J. S. MACLEAN, J. B. MORROW, W. B. MCNUTT, W. H. WISWELL, H. THEAKSTON, R. E. SAUNDERS.
Pictou MAXWELL MURDOCK.
Richmond J. ECKERSLEY.
Truro G. CAMPBELL, J. K. BLAIR, H. L. ATKINS, REV. J. A. ROGERS.
Yarmouth JOSEPH BURRELL, REV. C. READ.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Fredericton H. L. B. SMITH, M. LEMONT, W. A. QUINN, REV. W. H. BECKWITH.
St. John J. E. IRVINE, W. S. MORRISON, J. A. WHITE.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Charlottetown GEO. E. FALL.

CORRESPONDING DELEGATES.

T. K. CREE, New York, (International Executive Committee.)
J. LOUSON, Montreal.
G. C. STEBBINS, Boston, Mass.
EDWD. B. RUSSELL, London, England.
J. W. MARIN, Liverpool, England.

PRESIDENT.

JOHN S. MACLEAN.....HALIFAX.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

T. W. NISBET.....SARNIA.
J. E. IRVINE.....ST. JOHN.
G. HAGUE.....MONTREAL.
C. PRIMROSE.....PICTOU.
R. BALDWIN.....TORONTO.
J. BURRELL.....YARMOUTH.

SECRETARIES.

D. A. BUDGE.....MONTREAL.
W. B. McNUTT.....HALIFAX.

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CIRCULAR.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ONTARIO, QUEBEC AND MARITIME PROVINCES.

JULY 23rd, 1877.

DEAR BRETHREN,

In accordance with the unanimous desire expressed at a meeting of Canadian Delegates, held in Toronto, July, 1876, and resolution passed at the London Convention in October last, we beg to intimate that the Tenth Annual Convention will (D.V.) be held in the City of Quebec, on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th days of September next.

We are looking forward to this Convention with great anticipations, combining as it does the united attendance of representatives from the entire Dominion, and hope that every Association will endeavour to send a delegation composed of their very best men, and pray in private and at Association meetings for God's blessing upon this gathering.

Our work in all its departments has been eminently blessed of God during the past year. We trust this will be the best meeting of the kind ever held in Canada.

The number of delegates from each Association is not limited, and pastors of churches, professors and teachers in colleges and schools, and young men interested in Christian work, who are not members of Associations, are cordially invited to attend. They will enjoy every privilege (save that of voting) which belongs to the regular delegates.

After much prayer and correspondence with the Associations, the following topics have been selected for discussion at the Convention, and will be opened by brief addresses or papers, by men of practical experience:—

TOPICS.

1. What is your Association doing for YOUNG MEN?
 - a. Railroad Men?
 - b. Commercial Travellers?
 - c. Students and Professional Men?
 - d. Young Men out of employment?
2. The necessity for an interchange of sympathy and experiences of Associations throughout the Dominion. How can this be attained?
3. The duty and joyfulness of personal effort in winning souls. How can it be done most effectually?
4. How to use the Bible in our work.
5. Young Men's Christian Associations: What is their work in Towns?

6. Young men at home. How can they use their homes to benefit strangers?

Associations are requested to appoint their delegates as soon as possible, and forward their names *not later* than the 6th of September, to Mr. THOS. S. COLE, Secrétaire, Québec, in order that "HOMES" may be provided. *This is important.* And also to empower their representatives to pledge such money to the Executive as may be necessary to carry on their work.

The usual travelling facilities will be extended by the railways and steamers, all particulars of which will be given in due time, by circular from the Quebec Association.

The Committees cannot urge too strongly the vital importance of sending to this Convention earnest and devout men, filled with the spirit of the Master, and sustained by the prayers of the faithful workers who remain behind.

Our work in the past has so developed that the future demands wise planning and faithful execution. In coming together then let our objects be:

1. A oneness with Him who is one with the Father.
2. A more spiritual and intelligent preparation for future work.
3. A willingness to make any sacrifice to build up the Kingdom of our Lord in Canada, during the coming year.

We are, faithfully yours,

On behalf of the Executive Committees,

S. R. BRIGGS,

Chairman Ex. Com. Ontario and Quebec.

J. B. MORROW,

Chairman Ex. Com. Maritime Provinces.

THOS. J. WILKIE,

Cor. Sec. Ontario and Quebec.

W. B. McNUTT,

Cor. Sec. Maritime Provinces.

PROCEEDINGS
OF
FIRST DOMINION CONVENTION.

QUEBEC, September 13, 1877.

The First Dominion Convention assembled in the National School Hall at 2.30 o'clock. A devotional meeting was conducted from 2.30 to 3 o'clock by the Rev. J. READ, Yarmouth, N.S.

On motion of Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia, seconded by J. B. MORROW, Halifax, J. S. MacLean, Halifax, was appointed Chairman *pro tem*.

After singing "All hail the power of Jesus name," the Rev. L. GAETZ read a portion of Scripture and engaged in prayer.

On motion of J. C. THOMSON, Quebec, seconded by J. IRVINE, St. John, N.B., the Chairman was asked to nominate a Committee on Organization.

The Chairman appointed the following:

HENRY FRY, Quebec,
W. S. MORRISON, St. John,
JOSEPH BURRELL, Yarmouth,
H. THEAKSON, Halifax,

H. L. SMITH, Fredericton,
JOSEPH GOTHWAITE, Port Hope,
T. S. COLE, Quebec.

A temporary Business Committee was appointed by the Chairman, as follows:—

T. J. WILKIE, Toronto,
W. WISWELL, Halifax,
A. B. SMITH, Hamilton,

W. LEMONT, Fredericton,
W. BROWN, Quebec.

While the Committee on Organization were bringing in their report, the Convention sang "I need Thee every hour," after which Capt. DUTTON and others engaged in prayer.

The Committee asked leave to report, and presented the following as the Officers of Convention:—

President:

JOHN D. MACLEAN, Halifax.

Vice-Presidents:

T. W. NISBET, Sarnia,
J. E. IRVINE, St. John,
G. HAGUE, Montreal,

C. PRIMROSE, Pictou,
R. BALDWIN, Toronto,
J. BURRELL, Yarmouth.

Secretaries:

D. A. BUDGE, Montreal,
W. B. McNUTT, Halifax.

On motion of HENRY FRY, Quebec, seconded by Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia, the report of the Convention was adopted.

J. S. MACLEAN, Halifax, thanked the Convention for the honour they had conferred upon him, and said he would endeavour to warrant their confidence. He was personally greatly indebted to the Young Men's Christian Association. Ten years ago he had attended the Convention held in Montreal, and while he had always considered himself to be a Christian, he there discovered that he had not been building upon the Rock Christ Jesus. He returned from that meeting with a different feeling and an intense longing that the young men of his Province might be won for Christ.

They had now 39 Associations principally composed of young converts, from this work, who are good workers in their individual churches. The buildings now dedicated to this special work in the Provinces showed the blessing which had attended their efforts, and he looked forward to a glorious future. He said he was in earnest in this work, and asked that each delegate should make it a subject of prayer that a blessing might come upon the young men of Quebec through this gathering.

Whilst the Business Committee were arranging an order of business to proceed with,

J. E. IRVINE, St. John, was asked to report on the Chatham Convention. He said, they had a great blessing in all their meetings, as they felt they were of one accord and one mind. The study of the Bible had a prominent place in the Convention, as they felt it to be the only power for Christian work. At the Gospel services on Sunday afternoon some 40 or 50 arose for prayer, and the results were such as to warrant the continuance of the meetings after the Convention closed.

GEO. C. STEBBINS, Boston, then sang "Tell me more about Jesus."

On motion of Rev. L. GAETZ, Montreal, seconded by M. TUPPER, Bridgeton, N.S., a Committee on Credentials was appointed as follows:—

F. E. JODERY, Montreal.

W. S. MORRISON, St. John.

JAS. A. GAULD, Sherbrooke.

W. R. WHIDDEN, Antigonish.

A. T. COWAN, Ingersoll.

M. MURDOCK, Pictou.

The Business Committee submitted the following order of business for the afternoon session:—Topic No. 2, to be opened by W. Wiswell, Halifax, followed by brief addresses until 5 o'clock. Reports from Committees. Convention to close at 5.30.

The report was adopted on motion.

After singing "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds,"

W. WISWELL, Halifax, opened Topic No. 2.

THE NECESSITY FOR AN INTERCHANGE OF SYMPATHY AND EXPERIENCE WITH ASSOCIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION. HOW CAN IT BE OBTAINED?

He said that—

The Y. M. C. A., like many other useful institutions, had a small beginning some thirty years since in London, where George Williams initiated it as a prayer meeting among the clerks of a large warehouse.

This example was followed up by the establishment of similar societies in other large cities after the original association had been duly organized upon a permanent basis, and chiefly with a view to the spiritual welfare and improvement of the members and the concentration of personal effort in the work of bringing young men to Christ. Very speedily the movement acquired character and power, became systematized, and branch associations were formed throughout Great Britain. Various means were devised to reach young men as a distinct class, and when the organization became well known and appreciated, associations sprung up on this Continent, where more sympathy was shewn to it, and while retaining the spiritual objects as its primary and principal characteristic, various secular undertakings were added in order to attract and induce young men of good moral character to become members. The number of associations in America rapidly increased, and it became desirable to have some means of securing co-operation and mutual interest among the various associations.

He went on to shew that there was a great necessity for these associations and their work. The apathy of the Churches, the growth of infidelity and skepticism, scientific questioning of Scripture truth, and other evil tendencies of the time, were undermining the principles and petrifying the hearts of young men, and it was a very difficult matter to reach and rescue them. The Holy Spirit doubtless inspired this great zeal and desire for a new way of bringing the Gospel home to young men and saving their souls. Let us thank God for this added means of grace, and give to it all our sympathy and energy, and work on in love and faith in the glorious endeavour to win young men to Christ. Our topic says sympathy is needed among us more than ever. We all know how great a power mutual interest and friendly feeling exert in these annual conferences. As a harp or piano vibrates to the impulse of another instrument or the tones of a sweet voice, so here our souls respond to each other. The beaming eye, the friendly hand grasp, the overflowing heart, all attest the force of Christian love and fellowship. We are quite confident that this feeling has existed and does exist among the associations, but we want more of it.

This desirable object depends on knowledge or "experiences," as the Topic has it. Unless we know all about each other by interchange of thought and a record of work done, enterprises attempted, successes and failures, associations languish, dwindle and die. We have sought for these experiences by asking for written reports to the Executive Committee. To get these it seems impossible, and different means have been adopted to discover the state and progress of associations. Special visitation by accredited agents from the Executive Committee or by themselves, conferences and conventions. All these promote knowledge and evoke sympathy, but he thought the Annual Conventions do more than any other toward these desirable ends. It is not well to multiply more machinery, for too much of that with nothing to grind would soon produce stagnation and death. Yet he thought that failing to get the knowledge on which our sympathy will depend, we shall require to have another and a special meeting of delegates from time to time to consult on such matters as will inspire our hearts and effect our work. Out of 117 associations, called into being in eleven years, only 29 reported at Chatham Convention, though over 60 are still in existence, some of them represented by delegates. We want a Dominion Convention in order that our knowledge and sympathy may be enlarged and the value and progress of our Christian work may be more generally known and appreciated by our people. But the annual Provincial Convention must be retained in any case, nor can we afford to relinquish connection with the International Convention. The proposed Dominion Convention need only be held triennially, and at such period as not to interfere with those

mentioned. He suggested nothing as to details of representation, time, place, or other matters, as these are matters for a special committee to arrange.

"More to follow" was then sung. After which

Rev. J. READ, of Yarmouth, continued the discussion by saying that Paul once sent a living brother Tychicus, as well as a cold letter, to carry the charm and life of that gospel, the principle of which was embodied in the letter addressed to the Church. He thought human nature was still the same, and therefore the necessity for the interchange with the brethren. The commercial interests of the Provinces were so entwined into each other that there was necessity for this enlarged sympathy between the brethren in order to the more successful promotion of this great work. The power of testimony from young men was very great, and he hoped the Associations would encourage and develop this new life.

Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia, considered that it was desirable to hold a Dominion Convention occasionally, but having no executive management to extend outside of the Convention, the object being to compare experiences and profit by them, and be promoted and cheered by the sympathy we bear with each other. He hoped this Convention would never interfere with the International Convention, as we owed very much to the sympathy of the brethren across the line. He also hoped it would not set aside our Provincial Conventions, which are necessary to the fostering of our local associations.

T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, wanted some light on this subject. This year they had in Ontario and Quebec fifty-four associations, and fifty-one had been reported. They felt the necessity of constant visitation by the Executive Committee or they soon cease to exist. He asked if it would be possible to have one strong man in the work throughout the Dominion? He suggested having a man in the cities to look after a limited section adjacent to him, and instead of having Provincial Conventions, divide the country into several districts in which local conferences might be held which would get at the brethren more easily. If necessary have the two Executive Committees to direct this travelling agent who would look after this work. The International Convention have found it a necessity to have a biennial convention, and several local conferences.

J. B. MORROW, of Halifax, said that visitation was wanted to keep their Associations in life and work, and the question was, how often should we meet together. Brother Cree's opinion was that these large conventions were not profitable. The Executive Committee should see to the systematic work of visitation to every association at least once a year. He thought we should meet together as a Dominion Convention at least once in three years. After singing "Only an armour bearer,"

J. S. MACLEAN, of Halifax, said that it had long been the desire of his heart to have a delegation from the West, but they never had until this year. He considered it expedient to come together, as they had been too long separated, and he hoped the result of this meeting would prove this fact. He

thought some of the Provinces had not given sufficient attention to the future of this great work as regards the churches, and more especially as regards the smaller towns. He believed it necessary to have local conferences, and they intended to do so next year in the East. In the meantime, however, they must have the sympathy which this Convention has brought about, and he hoped a resolution would be submitted on this question.

Capt. DUTTON, S.S. *Sardinian*, thought there should be more mutual interchange between the various associations, and suggested that more publicity be given by individual associations to their different meetings, so that strange brethren could be utilized as they are passing through, and in this way good accomplished:

Rev. J. HOOKER, Quebec, approved of the local conferences, especially in the rural districts and small towns, which were, as a rule, narrower in their Christian charity. He thought the reason these associations were blessed was because they represented in the eye of God the purest style of Christianity. He suggested that one should be held in every county or district.

The PRESIDENT asked the Hon. A. Vidal to prepare a resolution on Topic No. 2.

On motion of J. C. THOMSON, Quebec, seconded by J. E. IRVINE, St. John, the following Devotional Committee was appointed:

W. P. Crombie, Toronto, Chairman; and W. Givin, Hamilton; W. S. Morrison, St. John; T. K. Cree, New York; G. C. Stebbins, Boston.

On motion of J. C. THOMSON, Quebec, seconded by M. LEMONT, Fredericton, all clergymen, members of Associations and visiting brethren, not accredited delegates, were appointed corresponding members of this Convention.

The Business Committee then submitted the following programme for the welcome meeting to be held in the Methodist Church:—

HENRY FRY, President, Quebec Y. M. C. A., Chairman.

Devotional exercises to be conducted by Rev. S. SYKES and Rev. H. POWIS.

Welcome address by Mr. FRY, on behalf of Quebec Association.

Welcome address by R. R. DOBELL, on behalf of Citizens.

Address by Rev. D. MARSH, on behalf of Churches.

Address by Rev. L. HOOKER, on behalf of Churches.

Responses by J. S. MACLEAN, President; Rev. L. GAETZ, Montreal; Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia; T. K. CREE, of New York.

The singing conducted by GEO. C. STEBBINS, of Boston.

The session closed at 5.30 with singing and prayer.

THE WELCOME MEETING

assembled in the large Methodist Church, which was well filled.

After singing "Ring the Bells of Heaven," prayer was offered by the Rev. H. POWIS, of Quebec.

Rev. S. SYKES read the Scripture lesson from 1 Jno. ii., after which the audience sang "All the way my Saviour leads me."

HENRY FRY, President of the Local Association, welcomed the Delegates from all parts of the Dominion, because they needed in their old city some of the fire and love which filled the hearts of the brethren. Especially would he welcome the Delegates from the Maritime Provinces because hitherto they had been so much separated. He hoped they would be greatly united in this glorious work. He welcomed them to their homes, to their hearts and to their historical city.

R. R. DOBELL welcomed the Delegates on behalf of the citizens of Quebec. He expressed great pleasure in welcoming to their city representatives of such a growing institution, and felt sure they would be greatly benefited by their presence. He wanted them to measure the warmth of their welcome not by the length but by the brevity of his address.

G. C. STEBBINS, of Boston, who had taken the place of the late P. P. Bliss, was then introduced and sang "The half was never told."

Rev. D. MARSH gladly welcomed the Delegates on behalf of the ministers of the city. He regarded it as a privilege and honour. His heart rejoiced to meet so many who were lovers of the Saviour and His word. As Christians and lovers of His work he would bid them first welcome. It was not only to them as Christian workers but as members of various churches throughout the Dominion, he bid them welcome. Some, he believed, feared that the Association would oppose in some way the churches. He regarded the Y. M. C. A. not as a rival, but as a union of those who sought to build up the churches. He felt assured that the churches represented here would reap all the advantages of their labours. Their training in the work made better and bolder and more earnest workers amongst the churches. He considered it to be the duty of every Christian man to be associated with some Christian church. One thing he admired was that they loved to lift high the Bible, which is becoming more and more a book from which light and guidance is constantly derived. If the church be aroused to greater exertions through this work he would consider it a great blessing. As members of our Protestant churches he would welcome them to Quebec. In this Convention we have, whatever may be the diversity of operation, that which practically proves how thoroughly we are united in this great work for Christ Jesus. He felt great joy to bury separate feelings and welcome them as brethren. Although this old city be considered by our neighbours "behind the times," he believed they would discover warm hearts who will make the memory of their visit very pleasant. Whatever might be the signs of the times as expounded by some, still he thought that in

this 19th century the Gospel had greater power than ever before, and he believed that the stone cut out of the mountain without hands would go on until it filled the whole earth, and he thanked God for any agency used to promote this end.

Rev. L. HOOKER, of Quebec, said he felt embarrassed, as did the other speakers, in welcoming the brethren, and he would not forget the sweet singer who had come to help them. He welcomed them because they loved them, because they were workers in the Lord's vineyard, and because they were *Christians*. He read somewhere of two ships at war which in a fog commenced fighting and pouring destruction into each others sides, but when the fog cleared away they discovered the British flag flying above each. This has been so with many branches of the Christian church far too long, but he saw in the Evangelical Alliance and Y. M. C. A. the fog clearing away, and the realization that they were all enlisted under the same banner in this great work, and that the banner over them was love. After some earnest words of cheer he again, on behalf of the Christian people of Quebec, most heartily welcomed all the Delegates to their city.

The choir then sang "Sowing the Seed."

Jno. B. MORROW, of Halifax, thanked the people of Quebec for the great kindness shown them since their arrival, but said they had expected that, for it's always so in these Y. M. C. A. Conventions. But he was thinking of other things. He had just come from Chatham, N.B., where scores of young men were asking for this blessing in Christ Jesus, and that hymn just sung had brought great thoughts to his mind. To all the young men in our land "what will the harvest be" was a most important question. To those who are working in this glorious cause, and sowing the seed of the Word from week to week, what a glorious harvest they will reap at that great day! He appealed to the young men present to decide for Christ.

Rev. L. GAETZ, of Montreal, said he thought this Dominion Convention was a grand fellowship meeting, a time when we could get nearer to our Blessed Lord. All the churches have had these conferences, and here we are again. What does it mean? He thought there was a special emphasis in Y. M. C. A. work. That young men might be reached—rather than general mission work. He came not only to acknowledge the kind words of welcome, but to work for young men. He considered this Y. M. C. A. organization to be a *General Convention* on the part of the churches. Their welcome was fully appreciated by them and he hoped many hearts would be rejoicing in Quebec through this gathering. He believed that work must be honest and hard in the sight of God, specially for young men. They needed all the inspiration they could get from these Conventions in order that they might go back and win for Jesus the precious souls of our young men who are going to destruction in all our cities and towns.

Geo. C. STEBBINS then sang by request that beautiful hymn by P. P. Bliss, "My Redeemer."

Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia, said he was impressed with the thought of what a kind indulgent Father they had to serve, and the many green pastures He permitted them to feed in on their journey. He assured them that the expressions of welcome were appreciated by the Delegates. He thanked the ministers for their welcome expressed so fully and kindly. He believed the days of suspicion and jealousy on the part of ministers were fast passing away, and now they were recognized as the hands of the church, simply going out after the young men in the different localities who cannot and are not reached by the churches. He looked forward to the time when these Associations would cover our entire land, and felt thankful that he was privileged to engage in the work.

T. K. CREE, of New York, said he fully appreciated the welcome he had received since leaving New York. He wanted them to understand who and what these Associations were that they welcomed. He remembered the welcome given to the Prince of Wales as he passed through this country, because he was son of the Queen (God bless her.) We are here, he said, as the sons of the King of kings, and although we do not look much like princes, still the time will come when the sons of God will be made manifest. He spoke of the blessing attending the Convention in Chatham, and the souls anxious about their eternal safety. He hoped this might be so in Quebec, and he felt sure this fellowship would be realized "if we walk in the light as He is in the light." He would like to impress upon them the magnitude of this great work which these Associations had in view, and trusted they would sympathize more with their own local association.

*JOHN S. MACLEAN, of Halifax, as President of the Convention, said he represented over 100,000 young men who were banded together in this noble work. He was glad to hear the words of endorsement from these business men and ministers. He felt that there was no body of men who would receive such a cordial welcome to their homes, and he hoped that every house who had a Delegate would be blessed. He specially invited the young men of Quebec to the sessions of the Convention, in order that they might see what was done, and become acquainted with the work.

The meeting closed with the Benediction.

FRIDAY MORNING'S SESSION.

At 9.30 a devotional meeting was held, conducted by W. P. CROMBIE, Mr. STEBBINS leading the singing.

The PRESIDENT called the Convention to order at 10.15. Hymn, "Come thou Fount of every blessing" was sung, after which Rev. Mr. RACEY read the Scripture lesson and engaged in prayer.

The minutes of the previous session were read, and on motion confirmed.

A communication was read from the President of Y. M. C. A., Chatham, N.B., sending greeting and reporting the blessing which followed the convention lately held in that place. The Secretary was requested to reply.

W. B. McNUTT reported that an addition of 40 members had been received last night as a result of their work in Chatham.

T. K. CREE, of New York, reported on behalf of the Port Hope Association, regretting that their delegation was so small on account of special camp work, &c., asking the prayers of the Convention; also from Galt, regretting that they were not represented.

J. IRVINE, St. John, reported on behalf of the Y. M. C. A. of New Brunswick. There were fourteen Associations in that Province, of these only seven had reported. In St. John they had a building costing \$40,000 and many dear brethren fully consecrated to the Master's service. They had been of one accord in their work. Their work had been specially *by* young men, more than *for* young men. They endeavoured to carry on work neglected by churches, or which the churches could not do on account of their denominations. He relates several instances of those who had received blessing through the efforts of the young men, and felt that the Judgment Day alone would reveal the results. They conducted two Sabbath schools and several cottage meetings weekly. Their work had been disturbed by the fire, but they soon hoped to resume. In Fredericton, a Y. M. C. A. of about 100 members was well sustained. Chatham had already been reported upon. Two small Associations in Norton, Kings Co., continued union meetings. He hoped that an Association might be organized in Moncton, where there were 600 railway employees.

W. H. WISWELL, of Halifax, on behalf of Nova Scotia said he represented the third Association on this continent. He referred to the difficulties of this work, and the number of young men who were constantly leaving their city. They had a restaurant in connection with their building which they found useful. Their Bible class and prayer meetings were well sustained. In Yarmouth, the Association took the lead in the Temperance work, and had really swept the evil out of the county. In Truro a good work was accomplished. In Liverpool an Association existed which needed help. In New Glasgow and Pictou the work had been full of blessing.

Out of the 30 Associations reporting at last Convention the following is a summary of their work: 15 have Bible classes, 30 have prayer meetings, 22 have various religious meetings, 17 have lectures (65 in all), 30 have members who are Sunday School Teachers (560), 8 report special religious interest during year, 30 report a membership of 2,458, 11 report increase of members 150, 7 own buildings, cost \$55,000; 1 own building site, cost \$500; 6 have building funds, amount \$12,650; 10 have libraries containing 4,320 volumes. He also reported for Prince Edward Island. In Charlottetown they had an Association of 256 members doing a good work. There are six Associations in active operation on the Island.

The PRESIDENT asked reports from Ontario and Quebec for the afternoon.

The PRESIDENT read a letter from the International Executive Committee, expressing their desire about the work in the Dominion, and introducing Mr. T. K. Cree, the representative of the Committee to this Convention.

Mr. T. K. CREE, of New York, said Canada had a large share in the hearts of the Executive Committee. He, however, thought they needed but little help as they were so far advanced. He referred to the future of the work as being even greater than any really supposed; and looked forward to the time when a building would be in every city and town in the land. He hoped the result of this Convention would be the opening of a building in the city of Quebec. He hoped the work in small towns and villages would not be neglected, as it secured union amongst the churches and prepared the young men for entrance to the city Associations.

"Blest be the tie that binds" was sung, when

T. K. CREE introduced the discussion on Topic No. 1—"WHAT IS OUR ASSOCIATION DOING FOR RAILROAD MEN?" This work he said had greatly developed. In the States and Provinces 8000 miles of railway, represented over 80,000 young men, which showed the importance of this work. They had a practical illustration of the result of this special work in the recent terrible strikes. Very few of the Y. M. C. A. men had any part in the riots, but the trouble and loss was principally caused by tramps. The management of the railways are now heartily in sympathy with this work, and readily place themselves at our disposal. How is this work to be done? Get the officials together at the centres, explain the work fully, and arrange meetings to suit them. Get railway men to interest themselves in this work, and they alone can gather around them their companions in labour. He was not a railway man, but trusted that some plan might be adopted whereby this Convention would take more interest in this important department of our work.

J. GOTHWAITE, Port Hope, said that meetings for railway men should be held in the stations or shops in order to reach these men, and gave some interesting incidents in connection with this special work.

T. J. WILKIE, of Toronto, said he felt alive about this work, and detailed some special cases and the earnestness with which these men carry on the work. He referred to the way in which they had commenced in their city, and that now weekly services were held in two of the depots with blessed results. He also referred to the work in the States, and the wonderful success which had followed this special effort, and hoped we might do something wherever we had a railway centre.

JOHN ECKERSLEY, of Richmond, Halifax, said that in his knowledge of employees of railways, he found the greatest disregard for the religion of Christ. Their surroundings made it the more necessary that they should be Christians, as in a moment they may be called away. He hoped they would immediately act in this matter in the Maritime Provinces.

W. GIVEN, Hamilton, said they had no direct work in connection with the Great Western Railway employees on account of the open opposition on the part of the General Manager; but they were now trying to hold cottage meetings in the houses of these railway men, and thus try and win them for Christ. They had over 1,000 railway men in their city.

Hon. A. VIDAL led in prayer specially for this work amongst the railway men.

W. WISWELL, of Halifax, said that he thought they could begin at once in Moncton, N.B., and undertake this work.

After some further discussion on this subject the following resolution was adopted by the Convention on motion of ROBT. HENDERSON, of Montreal, and seconded by J. A. WHITE, of St. John:—Having heard the discussion of the Delegates on this work amongst railway men, and realizing its great importance, considering the number of young men employed on our railways, their particular trials and temptations, be it therefore

Resolved—That our Associations put forth more strenuous efforts in organizing meetings where none are now held, and carrying on more faithfully the work where it is now in operation.

“I need Thee every hour” was sung, after which the second section of Topic No. 2, introduced by a paper from S. CALDECOTT, of Montreal, and read in his absence by Jno. LOUSON.

WHAT IS THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION DOING FOR COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS?

It is a sign of life to have such a question put to this Convention, and shows that the members regard it as a part of their duty to give earnest thought, and active effort, on behalf of a class in the community who are at once not only exposed to many and great temptations, but who exercise a most important influence upon the character of vast numbers of the young men of the country.

As a body, commercial travellers are distinguished for shrewd intelligence, for indomitable perseverance, and for steam-like energy, qualities which when united to Christian principle cannot but make the commercial traveller a most useful member of society, but if lacking this last quality leaves him like a gallant ship that is fully equipped for a voyage across the seas, excepting a helm to steer with, and a compass to steer by—real progress becomes impossible, and the voyage or life must end in disaster. From the very nature of their employment commercial travellers are exposed to temptations of a peculiar and a most dangerous character.

Home! that dear old Anglo-Saxon word, a word that has charms that speak to the heart with wonderful force, a word that recalls so many bright and hallowed memories, a word that tells of a father's or a mother's presence and influence, of a sister's love or a brother's devotion, a word that has fired the soldier's heart with determination in the day of battle, and nerved the arm of the sailor in the storm or strengthened the wavering purpose to do right; home for which men have worked and toiled with unflinching zeal, and which women have adorned with their virtues, and sanctified with their love, is to the regular commercial traveller a place only to be *occasionally visited*, not a place to dwell in, and in its place he has the hotel or tavern, with the many baneful and injurious influences that seem almost inseparably connected with them.

Now we all know how restraining from evil, how valuable for good, are the usual home influences, regular habits, congenial friends, loving relatives, Sunday School connections, Church Associations, the reproof to be dreaded, or the approval to be won, of those who love us and whom we love. Let all this be withdrawn, and in its place supply the hotel or tavern, with

its billiard parlour, where young men are taught to misspend their leisure time, and their hard-earned money, and the brilliant bar decked in all its meretricious splendour, kept by a pleasant spoken man, well versed in all the weak points of human nature, and surrounded by men ever ready to lead young men down the broad road, with all its apparent pleasures, that leads to destruction and death, and then, remember that this is not a thing to be occasionally faced, it is the constant and daily condition of things for the commercial traveller, and add to all this the very common opinion, that in order to do business it is necessary to treat those to whom they desire to sell, and you will doubtless have some idea, how peculiar, how constant, and how dangerous are the temptations to which a young man following the avocation of a commercial traveller is exposed. Is it strange so many fall? is it not more strange that any come out of the ordeal unscathed?

Now the practical question which this Convention has to do with is this, What can be done for the spiritual welfare of commercial travellers, as a class, by the Young Men's Christian Association?

Permit me to offer a few suggestions.

First. Let commercial travellers feel that you desire their welfare, and in the hotels of every town or city where there is an Association let a card be placed containing a list of the various meetings held, accompanied with a cordial invitation to commercial travellers and strangers.

Secondly. In the cities and larger towns hold a weekly "Commercial Travellers and Strangers Meeting" for "Praise, Prayer and Edification," and to these meetings give a warm personal invitation, and induce, as far as possible, commercial travellers to take some part in conducting the exercises.

Thirdly. I would recommend the formation of a "Prayer Union" to consist only of commercial travellers whose special work should be to promote Christian fellowship and Christian work amongst their fellows.

Fourthly. Where possible I would suggest the advisability of placing small libraries in hotels for the special use of guests. The plan is now being followed in England, and is the means of doing much good. This suggestion would cause some outlay, but it would awaken increased interest in the operations of the Y. M. C. Association, and lead doubtless to many persons giving contributions who otherwise might never have occasion to know how active and how useful our Associations have become.

Doubtless other and more valuable suggestions than these will be thrown out by members of this Convention. The subject richly deserves your best consideration.

No class of men exercise more influence upon young men than commercial travellers do, and in reaching them you reach a large body of young men who, from their representative character and from the intense competition of the times, must necessarily be among the most intelligent of those employed by our various commercial houses, and as they come from large centres and represent for the most part firms of high standing and importance, the moulding power which they exercise over the young men of the towns and villages with whom they come in contact must be great. How important then to use every efficient means to Christianize the commercial traveller if without Christ in his heart, or to deepen and develop that power if there already, so that the great influences that naturally belong to the class may be thoroughly consecrated to the service of our blessed Lord. And if this Convention of Christian young men, guided and governed by the influence of the Holy Ghost, can devise and carry out to a successful issue a wise method of reaching the commercial travellers of our great and growing Dominion, they will have earned for Young Men's Christian Associations a new right to live and flourish, a new claim upon Christian sympathy and co-operation, and a new title to the gratitude not merely of com-

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mercial travellers, but of all who desire to see the progress of truth and the advance of that vital Christianity which alone can truly elevate and ennoble the whole human family.

T. K. CREE, of New York, said there were 60,000 commercial travellers in the States and Provinces. He thought, first interest the christian commercial men, also try and interest the Christian merchants as they can have great power in this work.

ROBT. HENDERSON, of Montreal, said that they must first influence the Christian merchants, as they had great power with the commercial men. He felt the great importance of this work, and hoped that some means might be devised to save this large class of our young men, who seemed so hard to reach.

T. J. WILKIE, of Toronto, presented the following resolution on this question, seconded by A. B. SMITH, of Hamilton:—

Resolved,—That the large class of young men known as commercial travellers, from the fact that they are constantly separated from the influence of home, and exposed to temptations of every kind, demand the kindest regard of our Convention, that we commend them to the earnest and prompt attention of the Associations, and request that our Executive Committee take such action as to them may seem best.

J. C. THOMSON, of Quebec, on behalf of the Quebec Association, presented an invitation to all the brethren and friends of Convention to visit the Falls of Montmorenci, Saturday afternoon from 2 o'clock.

The invitation was accepted.

The Business Committee presented the following order of Business for Afternoon Session:—

2.30 p.m., Devotional Exercises, conducted by T. K. CREE.

3 p.m., Unfinished Business, Topic No. 1, Section c., "Students and Professional Men," opened by J. B. MORROW, followed by discussion until 3.45.

3.45 p.m., Topic No. 1, Young Men out of Employment, Paper by J. J. GARTSHORE, of Toronto, to be read by JOSEPH GOTHWAITE, of Port Hope, discussion until 4.15 p.m.

4.15 p.m., Topic No. 5, Y. M. C. Associations. What is their work in towns? By Mr. NESBITT, of Sarnia. Discussion until 5 p.m.

Topic No. 6, Young Men at Home. How can they use their homes to benefit strangers? Mr. GIVEN, of Hamilton. Discussion to 5.45.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotional meeting was conducted by T. K. CREE, of New York, from 2.30 to 3.

Convention assembled at 3 o'clock; T. W. NESBITT, of Sarnia, 1st Vice-President, in the Chair.

Reading Scriptures and Prayer, by Rev. J. A. ROGERS, of Truro.

The minutes of the previous Session read, and on motion confirmed.

Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia, submitted the following resolution on Topic No. 2, seconded by Rev. THOS. BECKWITH, Fredericton:—

Resolved:

1. That it is desirable to secure an interchange of sympathy and experiences of Associations throughout this Dominion.

2. That in order to accomplish this it would be necessary to hold a Dominion Convention triennially, alternately in the Upper and Maritime Provinces.

3. That such Convention should not be held in the same year with the International Convention, nor at such time as would interfere with the Provincial Conventions.

4. That the proposed Dominion Convention should not undertake any executive work at present, nor in any way supersede the yearly Provincial Conventions.

5. That as this fraternal intercourse would be at such long intervals that it would not adequately secure the interest and co-operation sought to be evoked—therefore, it is essential that each Provincial Convention or its Executive should be represented annually at the other by at least two delegates.

On motion the above resolution was adopted.

W. P. CROMBIE, Toronto, reported on behalf of Associations of Ontario. They had 61 Associations, with three buildings in Toronto, Brantford, and Port Hope. In many of the principal towns they had large and commodious premises. During the past year the work in many of these towns had been very blessed, and many young men were brought to Christ. In Barrie, Orillia, Orangeville, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Oshawa, and Cobourg, gracious revivals were experienced, and the temperance question was given a very prominent place. Together with Mr. Cree, of New York, they visited some 18 Associations, and found them in a very flourishing condition. Ottawa gave great prominence to the study of the Bible, and he commended their example to every Association. Many eminent men are coming into the Societies through the evangelistic efforts put forth by the Executive Committee.

D. A. BUDGE, Montreal, on behalf of the Province of Quebec, said that there are only four Associations in the Province. Sherbrooke has an Association about two years old, organized by a brother from Montreal. Has fifty active members, twenty associate, and thirty young men have been brought to Christ. It had grown from a small prayer meeting, started in the boarding house of the brethren. Quebec has 400 members, library and reading room, daily noon Prayer Meeting, Young Men's Bible class, Young Men's Prayer Meeting, Weekly visits to Hospitals and Ships.

A meeting among the boys is held weekly which is very useful. Montreal Association has been greatly blessed during the past year, the chief feature being work by young men for young men. Much attention devoted to the study of God's Word. Two Bible classes every week, one having attendance of forty to fifty, the other twenty to thirty. A large number have been converted and added to the churches. Converts brought in by means

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of the Bible classes have proved very steadfast. A feature of their work is the Invitation Committee. Printed invitations to the Saturday evening meetings to the number of 95,000 have been given out at street corners, billiard rooms, &c. A Gospel Temperance meeting is held on Sunday afternoon. The Sunday evening meeting is very successful. Large numbers attend, and all the result of personal effort.

"We praise Thee, Oh God," was sung, after which

T. J. WILKIE, of Toronto, presented the following resolution:

Resolved,—That this Convention recognize in "The Watchman," published by Mr. W. W. Vanarsdale of Chicago, Ill., a paper invaluable to the Association cause, on this continent, as an organ of communication, and hereby recommend all the Associations and Association men to use their best endeavours to have it subscribed for and circulated, and send any items of Association news direct to the publisher who will gladly insert them.

On motion this resolution was adopted.

J. B. MORROW, Halifax, opened the Topic No. 1, Sec. c.

STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.

This question could interest but few of our Associations, but was an important one. He advised the establishment of separate Associations in colleges, distinct from the General Associations, as they could prosecute their work with greater power. In the city whence he came there is an important College, a Theological Hall, a Medical College, and a Commercial College, in which a large number of students are gathered. Our Association, on the opening of each session, extend them a written invitation to the free use of our Reading Room, Library and Parlor. They invite them to the Bible classes and Prayer meetings, and have been not a little indebted to many of them for their help in conducting the various meetings. He strongly recommended the establishment of separate Associations for the various Colleges. The members have an influence upon each other that outsiders can never have, and many young men in the smaller Associations gain courage to take their part in the largest gatherings. He thought it best, considering the difficulty many of our young men have in getting money to pay their tuition fees, that there should not be any charge for membership. The work of the Y. M. C. A. is for young men. Let the members then, where there are no separate Associations, make these student strangers welcome to the local Associations, so that when they go abroad to commence their life work they may carry away with them the kindest remembrances of the Associations, and will be hearty sympathizers with the work, and ready to help other young men to the enjoyment of like benefits.

W. WISWELL, Halifax, suggested that these students be made honorary members of the Association, and also invite them to the houses of members and interest them in the Christian work in which they may be engaged.

D. HAGUE, Montreal, referred to the Toronto University and the Association there. They had weekly meetings and with blessed results, but this is accomplished mainly through personal work.

T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, referred to the suggestions and action of the International Convention on this work, and considered it so important that

each College in the Dominion should have an Association, and that they should continue an active correspondence relative to their work. They could only fully be reached in this way.

W. WISWELL, Halifax, was appointed by the Chairman to submit a resolution on this question.

G. C. STEBBINS then sang "Are your windows opened toward Jerusalem," after which the 4th section of the 1st Topic was introduced by a Paper from J. GARTSHORE, Toronto, and in his absence read by Jos. GORHWAITTE, Port Hope.

WHAT IS YOUR ASSOCIATION DOING FOR YOUNG MEN OUT OF WORK?

In opening this topic, I would say that of all whom we meet, there is no one who deserves our sympathy, advice and tenderest, though wise, dealing, more than a young man out of employment. The last few years of commercial depression have greatly increased the number of those, and all the means at the disposal of Associations have been taxed in order to meet the necessity, and much has been accomplished. The different individuals who come looking for work might be divided into three classes:

- 1st. The deserving young man who would do credit to any situation.
- 2nd. The man who *can* work well, but is bound by that terrible chain, strong drink, and may bring reproach on those who recommend him.
- 3rd. The idle vagrant who will not work.

All will agree that to be the means of helping one of the first class is a great pleasure. To deal successfully with other classes named is no easy matter. It is difficult to improve upon the Apostolic rule for "The idle vagrant who will not work." Our experience with these characters should lead us to take warning and apply that old rule, "if a man will not work neither shall he eat." Regarding our Association, we are glad to be able to say that a great deal has been accomplished by means of regular systematic effort both for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the unemployed. Our Employment Committee are composed of members in attendance at the rooms each day at a certain hour, to record names in our employment register and if possible discover their real character, and if there are any vacant situations in the city reported to us, to send such as are thought fitted for the place. By this means quite a number have been introduced into permanent employment. Many who have been almost on the verge of despair have been cheered by kind words, and, better than all, we have reason to believe that some in that little committee room have learned of Jesus the Friend of the friendless and help of the needy.

Our Associations in cities having long felt the need of some regular place to which to send destitute men during the slack time in the winter season, such as a night refuge where men would be lodged and fed and for which they would do a certain amount of work. This has been found to work admirably, and the deserving poor were supplied with shelter and food in the cold nights.

Brethren, let us take these our fellow young men by the hand, and even if we cannot supply work or means of work, we can speak a kind encouraging word to the desponding heart, and tell them of the Master whom we serve, and thereby bring glory to Him "who though He was rich, for our sakes became poor that we through His poverty might be rich."

J. E. IRVINE, St. John, said they were much discouraged in this work, as the majority of those whom they had assisted had proven false.

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D. A. BUDGE, Montreal, said that this question needed the Divine Wisdom as much as conducting a prayer meeting. The Association often got into great disrepute through the delinquencies of those men they introduced to situations, and in Montreal they caused each applicant to furnish references, and these referees were written to and favourable replies received before the application was entertained. Then let the employer of labour act upon these written references, thus throwing the responsibility off the Association as much as possible. Never give any money under any circumstances. Prayer was constantly needed for grace and wisdom to act advisedly.

Rev. E. HOOKER, Quebec, thought no healthy young men should be in this position in this young country. He believed each Association should have some stone or wood, and have them work or they should not eat.

T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, referred to the way they managed with their free lodging house, where they caused each applicant to work for his living, and the encouraging results which had followed.

After singing the hymn, "With harps and with viols," Topic No. 5 was introduced by T. W. NESBITT, of Sarnia.

WHAT IS THE WORK OF ASSOCIATIONS IN TOWNS ?

In seeking to give an answer to this question, it is of the first importance that we should proceed from right premises, and base our enquiry on a true foundation. I would therefore ask at the outset: What is the true work of Y. M. C. A.'s, any where? For if there is a broad general principle underlying all our work, to ascertain what that is will greatly help us to a right solution of the special question now before us. There is such a general principle, and any Association to be successful in prosecuting its true work must grasp that principle, and seek to reproduce it in all the details of its work. It is seen in the name we bear. We are a "Christian" Association, professing to acknowledge Christ as our Captain, the Cross our Banner, the Word of God our rule of life and action; and any thing contrary to that Word should have no place with us.

Let me then answer the question first in the negative. Our work is not to provide a reading room, where the public may obtain the news of the day, or indulge a propensity for light literature, free of cost. It is not to provide a place where young men may take refuge from the cold of a winter evening and pass a few hours in trifling conversation or innocent amusement; it is not to provide entertainments of a popular kind for our fellow citizens; nor is our work simply that of a debating or literary society. I have known some Associations bearing our name which have fallen into the mistake of supposing that some or all of these things were their true work, and in doing so have sown seed that bore no good fruit, nay, which made it all the harder for them to do their true work when they woke up to a sense of what that was.

The main aim of every Young Men's Christian Association should be to extend the Redeemer's Kingdom, and win young men to Christ, and we must be wise in the selection of the means we employ, seeking wisdom from Him who is all our wisdom and our strength.

These things that I have mentioned as being sometimes mistaken for our true work, may be made valuable assistants in that work.

It is necessary that we should have attractive rooms; if possible, one well supplied with reading matter, into which the public may go, and another

reserved as a rule for members only—their parlour—in which those especially who live in lodgings or hotels may find a *home*, and spend their evenings in pleasant intercourse with others. But having provided these rooms our work is not accomplished, it is only begun—these must only be the means towards our great end. Having attracted the young men hither, let us see that the influence thrown around them is, altogether Christian. Let us strive to make it impossible for any one to enter our room without feeling that they are breathing a Christian atmosphere. This may be done by the class of literature laid upon our table, by the mottoes and texts adorning our walls—the silent messengers of truth; by the reception committee, whose kindly, cheerful welcome may win the hearts of many, and open the door for that truth whose entrance giveth light and liberty. But all these should be accompanied by the Word of God and prayer. Where rooms are kept open for entertainment, as I have described, they should be closed by devotional exercises, which will take the place of family worship for those who have no family altar.

In like manner, entertainments of various kinds may be made a powerful means of advancing our work,—but here great caution is necessary to discriminate between what will really assist our work, and what will retard it; nothing should be admitted which will pander to a popular and vitiated taste, but only what will instruct and elevate, while interesting and amusing. I believe nothing will attract young men to our rooms more powerfully than a good social entertainment, where good music and readings are provided, and an opportunity afforded for free social intercourse; but all such entertainments should bring prominently forward the one great theme of salvation for our lost race. They should be opened and closed with devotional exercises; and earnest Christian workers should take advantage of the opportunity afforded at such meetings of gaining a personal acquaintance with young men, which may be turned to good account afterwards, in inducing them to attend the religious services of the Association. What should these services be? I believe, first of all, every Association should maintain a week evening Bible Class for young men. In every town there are scores of young men who attend no Bible Class, many who consider themselves too old to attend Sabbath School, many who attend church only occasionally, or not at all, and who are thus receiving no instruction from the Word of God. Such a class to be successful should be under the leadership of one who will command the respect and confidence of young men generally, and whose heart is thoroughly in the work. It should be made as sociable as possible, the greatest freedom being allowed to all to ask questions or give expression to their thoughts, while at the same time scrupulously avoiding the discussion of vexed questions of doctrine, or the introduction of subjects foreign to the one under study.

Next to the Bible Class I believe the Sabbath Evening Prayer Meeting to be of great importance, where short earnest Gospel addresses, earnest prayers and hearty singing of Gospel hymns, are the order of the exercises. In many towns this meeting has been greatly blessed in reviving believers, stirring them up to more earnest work, and binding together more closely the Christians of the various churches, and also in the conversion of young men. Another meeting by which great good may be accomplished is a Saturday Night Gospel Meeting for young men. In every town I believe there are numbers of young men who make a practice on Saturday of walking up and down the streets, or lounging at the street corners, and if even a few of these could be induced to attend such a meeting, who can estimate the good that might be done. In connection with all these meetings, the Gospel slip and printed invitation is a powerful aid, and may, with God's blessing, accomplish much, even where they fail to induce those to whom they are given to attend the meetings.

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I am becoming more and more impressed with the importance of having Boys Meetings in connection with our Associations, for if we enlist their sympathies as boys we will more easily retain them as young men.

Another sphere of usefulness is open to us, where there is no tract distributing and visiting Associations.

I have thus sought to state as shortly as possible, as far as my limited experience will allow me, in what way our town Associations may do a good work, one built upon the true foundation, and which may stand the testing day, when the structures of wood, hay and stubble are consumed.

But do not mistake me to say that every town Association should undertake all the branches of the work that I have mentioned; to do so efficiently would require a large staff of active workers, but each must be guided by its own circumstances, and while doing all it can, yet avoiding the mistake of attempting too much,—a little well done is better than a great deal attempted, only to end in failure.

In addition to the direct work that I have spoken of there is an indirect work which the Associations are doing, the result of the former. They are making the Church aggressive by taking the Gospel to those who will not come to it. They are lessening the distance between the various Christian denominations, and drawing more closely together believers of all creeds, and they are raising the tone of morals and religion, and to a great extent moulding public opinion on these questions. Brethren, the fields are white unto the harvest, and the call is loud and urgent, "Go work to-day in my vineyard."

"Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen;
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save."

G. C. STEBBINS, Boston, related his experience in that City. They had a "Service of Song" on Sabbath afternoon with an audience of 600, which resulted in conversions. Many came to this service who do not go to church, and were blessed. He suggested this Service of Song in each Association, and especially in the larger places he believed much blessing would result.

W. GIVEN, Hamilton, opened Topic No. 6.

YOUNG MEN AT HOME. HOW TO USE THEIR HOMES TO BENEFIT STRANGERS.

The love of home is a virtue universally recognized and commended, and anything that will lead the young to a higher appreciation and better use of their home privileges should be encouraged. I am therefore glad that this subject is coming before this Convention, as it is one of unquestioned importance, deserving of more prominence and careful consideration than it has hitherto received, and its presentation now is to my mind an additional evidence that the Young Men's Christian Association is rapidly approaching and correctly apprehending its true position and work in Society. To every careful observer of the tendency of the times it must be painfully apparent that the rapid multiplication of meetings growing out of the increase of new organizations by which the young are drawn away from their houses and their earnings monopolized, very frequently to the neglect of personal and family interests of greater importance, is an evil that calls for a speedy and effectual remedy. What with Church and Society Meetings, Lectures, Concerts,

Social Entertainments, etc., (all very good in themselves and no doubt worthy of encouragement in their way) many young men have scarcely an evening in the month they can call their own, and spend at home. I sincerely hope that the result of this discussion will be to set the Young Men's Christian Association right before the Church and the world as being the true friend, advocate and supporter of every divinely appointed institution—Home as well as Church—notwithstanding the false accusation to the contrary that is frequently brought against it by those who are either opposed to it or unfamiliar with its spirit and mission. However, a word of warning just here will not be amiss to earnest workers, lest in urging members who are already employed in other branches of Christian work to greater activity they may lay themselves open to the charge of ignoring the claims of Church and Home, for how can the duty suggested by the Topic under consideration be faithfully discharged if we do not appreciate its importance, and how can we draw others where we are seldom or never found ourselves?

As to the methods by which this instrumentality may be usefully employed no observant person need be at a loss, as these will readily suggest themselves. Where there is a will there is a way. Who is there amongst us that cannot recall acts of kindness and hospitality that have warmed our hearts and called forth our strongest feelings of respect and gratitude? We are all familiar with the question, Who is my neighbour? that called forth the instructive parable of the Good Samaritan, and the command to go and do thou likewise is as appropriate to-day as ever.

There is probably nothing so charming and attractive to young men living in unsocial and it may be uncomfortable boarding houses than the warmth and life of a well regulated Christian home. The mere fact of extending a kindly invitation, and trying to make the stranger feel at home with us, is in itself a gracious act, and if nothing more be done would not be without its effect. Numerous instances might be related showing how such opportunities have been judiciously employed to reach the heart and influence the life of those who to all human appearances could not otherwise have been reached.

It is a great thing to a young man in the humbler walks of life to be taken familiarly by the hand and invited to the homes of those whose social position is higher than their own, and to whom they naturally look up as to a superior, and such an act has been to many an inspiration leading them to a new and better life.

I need not further enlarge, as the idea will be apparent to every one. I only add that I hope the subject will receive the consideration its importance deserves.

The Business Committee presented the following programme for the evening meeting in Chalmers Church.

7.30, Devotional Exercises to be conducted by D. A. BUDGE of Montreal.

Topic No. 3: "The duty and joyfulness of personal efforts in winning souls. How can it be done most effectually? To be opened by addresses by Rev. L. GAETZ, of Montreal, and followed by Rev. JOHN READ, of Yarmouth; T. K. CREE, New York; J. BURRELL, Yarmouth, and others.

W. WISWELL, Halifax, presented the following resolution on Sec. c of Topic No. 1, which was adopted by the Convention:

Resolved.—That it is the sense of this Convention that every College in the Dominion should appoint a Committee of five whose duty it shall be to carry on correspondence with every other College having a Y. M. C. A. or any Christian Association in full sympathy with the spirit and work of the Y. M. C. A., and with as many other Colleges as is judged expedient. The correspondence to consist of a statement of the spiritual condition of the students.

2. That a Y. M. C. A. should exist in every College in the country.

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3. That where the initiation of Young Men's Christian Associations is not undertaken within the College by professors, students or others, the local Association should take steps to establish them, and that the Delegates to this Convention on their return home will endeavour to see that this special work be attended to.

4. That it does not clearly appear how the Associations may specially influence professional men further than inducing them to join the Association and aid in carrying on the work by reporting to such of the Committees as they may find expedient to be of use to their clients, and by their own personal exertions to benefit young men socially and spiritually.

The Convention adjourned after singing "Stand up for Jesus."

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

This Session was held in Chalmers Church. Devotional Meeting, from 7.30 to 8, conducted by D. A. BUDGE, Montreal.

The PRESIDENT called the Convention to order at 8 p.m.

After singing "All hail the power of Jesus name," Rev. Mr. ROGERS, of Truro, read the Scriptures and engaged in prayer.

The minutes of the previous Session were read and confirmed on motion.

GEO. C. STEBBINS, of Boston, sang as a solo, "Eternity."

Rev. L. GAETZ introduced Topic No. 3.

THE DUTY AND JOYFULNESS OF WINNING SOULS. HOW CAN IT BE DONE EFFECTUALLY?

The world seemed to realize the great importance of this Topic. He thought a soul could only be won when an object was definitely placed before it. That object must be the blessed Saviour Himself. Some Christian workers seemed to think, from their actions, that a church, or an association, or a creed, could satisfy a soul, but that was not so in his estimation. Nothing but a living Christ, the only satisfying portion for the human soul. All these other things were only externals and had no power. Exalt Jesus Christ forever, as the only satisfying portion. In order to this we must have some definite idea how it can be done. To say "Come to Jesus" is not sufficient. It is a Personal Christ that is wanted to be realized by the Christian worker before intelligent work can be accomplished. We all want an agency to bring them to Christ. The Y. M. C. A. have shown that the simple Gospel is sufficient to accomplish this without other appendages. This agency has proved sufficient. Never aspire to a greater agency than the Gospel of God. This is designated both a duty and a joy in the question. Associations and churches have two dangers—first that of formality in times of spiritual dearth, and secondly, in times of spiritual blessing, the danger is religious effeminacy. We want a religion that tones the heart and life; a spirit that feels the responsibility God has laid on every redeemed soul. The Associations never die from want of members, but from want of living men who realize the work God has given them to do. But it is also a joy, the most joyful thing under Heaven, because we are working for the King. This work is not given to Bishops or Pastors alone, but to every child of God. This service must be inspired by love. No man is fit for this service who does not see in every poor, lost, bruised and battered soul a jewel for whom Christ died. All in this earth is fading away, but there is never a time when the soul shall not exist. Inspiration for service is gathered by the knowledge that we are working for eternity. "He that winneth souls is wise," and great wisdom is needed; therefore they must be

much in sympathy with the Lord Jesus Christ. Ministers cannot do this work alone. It must be by the members. We want more "hand picking" in this work. He urged great discretion, neither abruptness nor cowardice, but plain straightforward work. He advised them to go at once and do it the best way they know how, depending upon God, and He would lead and guide and bless.

Rev. J. READ, of Yarmouth, asked if each worker believed that souls were really in a lost condition who if not won for Christ would be separated from God forever. He asked if Christian workers really believed it possible that these souls can be won. There is hope in this work. This could be done only so far as we had the spirit of Jesus Christ. Workers before they can be successful must get all denominationalism wrung out of them; so that they could see the glory of God alone in this blessed work. He appealed to the unconverted present to consecrate themselves at once to Christ.

T. K. CREE, of New York, said he was reading about personal work in the Acts of the Apostles, where Philip left a great revival in Samaria, and went down to the desert to meet that Eunuch and brought him the good news. Speaking at meetings is pleasant, but personal work is where the blessing is realized. Many do not do it, just because they never have done so, and have never tasted its joy. The only thing necessary is that we have the Spirit's Baptism for work, and know the simple principles of the Gospel plan, and continually urge its acceptance. He impressed them not to lose the joy of this blessed service.

G. BURRELL, of Yarmouth, N.S., said this meeting was precious to him. He was 40 years old before the storm of sin passed away and the light dawned on his soul, and he hoped to know more of this blessed joy.

T. B. NISBETT, Sarnia, and D. A. BUDGE, Montreal, continued this subject, giving illustrations of actual cases of conversion and how it was accomplished.

The choir then sang "We are going home to-morrow."

On motion of T. J. WILKIE, seconded by T. K. CREE, the discussion was continued in three minute addresses by the following brethren:

T. J. WILKIE, Toronto; JOHN CURRIE, Montreal; J. A. WHITE, St. John; and R. ROLPH, Ottawa.

The following arrangements for concluding meeting were announced:

Devotional meeting on Saturday evening at 9 o'clock to 9.30, conducted by W. B. McNUTT, of Halifax. Devotional meeting to-morrow evening from 7.30 to 8, conducted by T. W. NESBIT, of Sarnia, in the Methodist Church. Consecration meeting in Chalmers Church, Sabbath morning, from 9.30 to 10.30, conducted by T. K. CREE, of New York. Young men's meeting at 4 p.m. in the National School Hall, conducted by CROMBIE and CREE. Farewell meeting in the Music Hall, Sunday evening, at 8.15.

GEO. C. STEBBINS sang "Why do you wait," after which those anxious to join in this work of winning souls for Christ were asked to rise, while Rev. L. GAETZ led in prayer.

The meeting closed by singing "Jesus, lover of my Soul."

THIRD DAY—SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Convention assembled at 8 p.m. in the Methodist Church, Mr. T. W. NISBETT, 1st Vice-President, in the chair.

The Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. H. POWIS, of Quebec.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and on motion confirmed.

On motion of W. A. QUINN, of Fredericton, N.B., seconded by C. E. DOBBS, Kingston, Ont., the thanks of this Convention were tendered to the Proprietors of the *Quebec Chronicle* for their kindness in supplying the Delegates during the Session with copies of their paper, and also to Mr. Chambers, their representative, for the admirable report which he gave from day to day of the Convention.

On motion of T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, seconded by Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia, the proceedings of both the Dominion and Provincial Conventions were ordered to be printed at once and sent to the different Associations at 20c. per copy.

Topic No. 4 was opened by a paper prepared by ALFRED SANDHAM, Montreal, and read by ROBERT HENDERSON.

THE BIBLE,—AND HOW TO USE IT IN OUR WORK.

We meet here to-day as a band of Christian young men, that is, a band of young men who profess to be followers or imitators of the Lord Jesus Christ. As such it becomes us to reverently ask: "What was Christ's work?" To this question the Master Himself gives answer in John ix. 4, 5. Christ's work was to do God's will, and with him it was not spasmodic effort, but an ever present and all controlling desire (John iv. 34). From these texts we learn that as followers of Christ our duty,—nay, I should write, our privilege,—is to carry on the same work and in the same spirit (Phil. ii. 14, 15, 16). The actual position occupied by the Christian worker is very clearly defined in 1 Cor. iii. 9. So we find that the topic presented for consideration resolves itself into the query: "How shall we use God's Word while doing God's work?"

We must admit that God Himself is the best authority and guide in the proper use of His Word. We shall therefore turn to that Word, and in simple reliance upon His promise that the spirit of truth shall guide us, or lead us into all truth, shall endeavour to give some illustration as to how the Word may be used.

Remember, brethren, this paper is only intended to be suggestive, and is not in any way set forth as authority. It merely gives thoughts suggested to the writer as he reviews his own short experience in Christian work. Jesus Christ, not doctrines, salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus, not creeds or church ordinances, is that which he would set forth.

When Paul was writing to that Christian young man, Timothy, we find the aged apostle says, 2 Tim. iii. 16, 17. In those verses we have a very important truth presented. We sometimes meet Christians who act as though only certain parts of Scripture are profitable, or even form part of God's great armoury from which they are to receive their outfit, or draw their supply for service. They say, "The Old Testament is dry and antiquated, we love the New because it is so full of Christ." Yet what were the Scriptures known to Timothy, certainly not the New alone. Some of the Epistles and Gospels were not written at that time, and doubtless many that were written were unknown to him. When the Master Himself said to the Jews, "Search

the Scriptures," he certainly did not refer to the New Testament, for not a single page of it was then written. And yet the One whom we follow and imitate says that these *dry* pages "*testify of Him.*"

We do not, for one moment, mean to say that any true Christian would entirely ignore the Old Testament. What we desire to secure by these references, is to impress upon young men the absolute necessity which exists for a knowledge of God's Word in its entirety, not merely a fragmentary knowledge, (if we may be permitted the use of such an expression). Our work as workers together with God, is to have Christ brought before the world,—Christ exalted as the only Saviour of the world,—Christ believed on by the world. Then, wherever Christ is to be found, towards that point our honest search must be directed, in order that we may in turn direct the sinner's eyes towards the same point. And God's Word tells me that all Scripture is profitable, because all Scripture speaks of Christ. But we must not jump at any hasty conclusion, and say that, because all Scripture is profitable, it matters not how we use it.

A carpenter can divide a plank by using a saw, or he can split it with an axe. But it would be utter folly for him to say that because either of these tools will divide the plank, it matters not which he uses. He knows that while both tools are effective, yet the saw is the proper instrument, and a proper use of that instrument will alone *rightly* divide the board. So I find a man experienced in the use of God's Word saying to young Timothy (2 Tim. ii. 15). So to rightly use God's Word, we must know it. You cannot work effectually, if you are not conversant with the instrument God would only have you use. Col. iii. 16. Here you are enjoined to have a rich indwelling, combined with which there is to be a wise impartation to others, and to meet the latter need you are to draw from the very same source whence flows the Word itself, for "if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." (Jas. i. 5.)

It is impossible for us to conceive of any position in which man can be placed wherein wisdom—great wisdom—heavenly wisdom is so much needed, as when the Christian worker sits by the side of an unconverted man, and proceeds to open up to him the great truth of God's Word. There is then in progress a conflict between good and evil, light and darkness, heaven and hell. While to human eyes it looks like a simple talk between two human beings, it is in reality God by His Word attacking Satan, and in the enquiry room we shall meet Satan under as many different aspects as there are unconverted men or women present.

Let us now imagine ourselves in such a meeting engaged in the Master's work, and in so doing we may learn a few simple lessons as to how the Word may be used. The worker sits down by the side of a man, and at once asks: Are you on the Lord's side? This will perhaps be met with a smile of contempt and the words: "Oh, I merely stayed to see what this meeting would be like, the fact is I don't believe in any of this sort of work."

Why, don't you believe in God? "No," is the answer. Now the worker need be in no doubt as to the case with which he has to deal. There is no use of entering into argument with that man. All you can do is to take your Bible and shew him that God's Word speaks of just such persons, and in no complimentary terms. Psalm 14, also 55, opens out with a description of such: "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." You need not be astonished if the man should consider such a reference as an insult, but you can remind him that "*you*" have not said it. It is God, and as he says there is *no* God he need take no offence, or he may say that such language is hard, and as your work is to bring God's mind to bear, be very careful how you use your own, therefore turn to Jer. xxiii. 29: "Is not my word like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces." You may then pro-

ceed to shew that the use of a hammer has a two-fold effect. In some instances it breaks, but in others it only hardens. From this he may be led to see that the object had in view, the utter breaking up of the hard heart, is what God desires, and for proof read Ps. li. 17. Show that God would break the heart, and then remove it to give a new one, is recorded in Ezek. xxxvi. 26, 27. The old stony foolish heart said, no God. The new heart will praise God. The man will say with Israel of old, my God, I know Thee, and this means salvation, as Jesus says in John xvii. 3. You might also set before him the opposite side, a hardened heart and its terrible end, by quoting Job ix. 2, 3, 4, Prov. xxviii. 14, and Prov. xxix. 1.

The next person does not say, "there is no God." But in reply to your opening enquiry he will say: "I do not think I am such a great sinner after all." He will admit there is a God, and that the Bible is God's Word. The way is therefore plain before the worker. He turns to Rom. iii. 23. This text at once sweeps away any question as to man's position in the sight of God. It does not recognize the world's standard as to degrees in sin. It does not speak of great sinners or little sinners. Next read such texts as Isa. liii. 5: "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way." Also Isa. lxiv. 6.

These passages place him as undone, helpless, powerless, and as the spokesman of God we ask the question (Job xiv. 4): "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." Thus far the worker may have been rightly dividing the Word, but it certainly would be stopping half way if the man were left at this point. God's word has been used as a sword, piercing, wounding, and it has left the subject helpless. Now there must be a proper administration of the healing texts, and we must remind him that it is when man has thus reached the end of self that God takes him up, and in proof read Rom. v. 6, 7, 8; John iii. 14, 15, 16; 2 Cor. v. 21; 1 John iv. 9, 10; Heb. ix. 22; John xix. 16, 17, 18; Isa. liii. 5. "The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Eph. ii. 13, 14, 15, 16; Acts xiii. 38, 39. Having read these, you may take up the Master's question and ask: "Believest thou this?" In the Scripture thus far quoted shew that the essential needed is Faith, and if the man can say "I believe," he can then read and appropriate to himself the words recorded in 1 John v. 1.

A strictly moral man, a church-goer, and perhaps even with his name on the Church rolls. He is very close in his observance of the outward forms and ceremonies. In fact he is one who wants to have two or three Saviours. Morality is going to do a little. Church-going will also help, and he hopes Christ will do the rest. He admits that he needs salvation, but he thinks he must work out a salvation for himself. Such a case is fully provided for in God's Word, and probably one or two passages will serve our purpose for illustration. Of course our first duty is to shew that it is Christ, and He alone, that can save, and our proof is Acts iv. 12, and then we read Eph. ii. 8, 9. It will also be very easy to prove that all works apart from Jesus are dead works. That the works of an unregenerate man are not acceptable because there is no faith. In other words they are sin, and Rom. vi. 23 describes the result of such a course.

It therefore follows that if he desires eternal life it must be accepted by simple faith, for a gift is not a gift if works of any kind are necessary to its reception.

One man says: "I am too great a sinner to be saved." The devil has four very favourite excuses. Not bad enough, or too bad, plenty of time, or too late. So here we have the man saying, "Too great a sinner," but in many cases we find that when we undertake to prove from God's Word that he is really worse than he thinks, he at once resents it, thereby proving that the words were not honest on his part. Now the object of God's Word

is first of all to shew man that "all are guilty in God's sight," and we do meet cases where the man seems honestly to believe that he has gone too far. Now with such an one we must deal wisely. We must not try to make him believe that he is any better than he states himself to be, but by a judicious use of God's Word, endeavour as it were to lift him out of the dungeon of despair. We direct him to Isa. xlv. 22. "But if the thick cloud does not appear to meet his views as to the enormity of his sin, we repeat Ps. lxxviii. 13, and we tell him how the pots was the place of the slave, and yet God says such an one may be raised to honour and glory. Still farther on we bear him as we read Isa. i. 18, and from this passage shew how the deep, double-dyed stains of sin are washed away, and that alone by the precious blood of the Son of God. We then take up texts to shew how God can be just and yet the Justifier of the ungodly, and prove that all may come to Jesus, and him that cometh He will in no wise cast out.

Another. He is a man that professes to believe all you say. It does not matter what you say. It does not matter what you quote, he says, yes; I believe that, and yet you know at heart he does not believe it. Perhaps the best way to deal with such is to make him expose his own false position. For instance, I ask him if his experience is that of peace with God, and he will no doubt admit that such is not the case. Then turn to Rom. v. 1, 2. I next ask as to his hopes for the future. Has he an assurance that when death removes him, Heaven will receive him? If not, what about the record given in 2 Cor. v. 1? Still another question. If he believes the record, is he bearing witness to its truth? If not, why not? Rom. x. 11. Now these are but a few of many test questions, and observe, that in each case, faith is that which gives the peace, assurance, boldness, and the man's own answers will shew him that his belief is only with the head, and that is useless. Rom. x. 10.

Now, brethren, we have glanced at a few of the many cases met with in our work, and have endeavoured to give some hints as to how God's Word may be used. Suffer me to make a few practical suggestions.

1st. In dealing with anxious souls, be very careful how you emphasize your own experience. Remember God deals with men in different ways. The way he led you may be entirely different from that by which he is leading the one to whom you speak, and the details of your conversion may only serve to block his way. Tell him what God says, and but little of what you think.

2nd. In the enquiry room always use your Bible. Do not trust to memory, but turn up the passage, and not only read yourself, but let the enquirer look for himself.

3rd. Whether you preach the Gospel to the multitude, or point the single individual to Christ, go to the work upon prayer. Continue it in the spirit of prayer, and return from the work to prayer.

4th. Never undertake to explain a passage you do not understand. Better admit, I do not know just now. But be sure you make that passage a subject of study and prayerful thought, so that if it be one which you should understand it may be revealed to you by the Spirit.

5th. When coming to God's Word, come as one desiring to learn. Do not bring your own ideas and seek to make Scripture bend to them, but seek to have your thoughts and ideas bend to Scripture.

6th. Remember in preaching Christ, that it is not Christ's life (beautiful though it is) which saves, but Christ's death and resurrection. It is the blood that made peace. That atones for the soul. That brings us nigh to God. That makes us to overcome. Preach the atonement, preach a whole Saviour, a complete Saviour, a living Saviour, a coming Saviour, and preach it in a present living faith and God will own His Word. Sinners will be

saved. God's Word will do its work, and we as labourers together with Him, will at last as sowers and reapers together rejoice in the great day of His coming. Brethren, one parting word. Be filled with the Word, richly filled with the Word, and faith in the power of the Word.

Mr. GEO. C. STEBBINS then sang "Along the river of time we glide," after which the discussion on the above Topic was continued by

T. K. CREE, New York, who said that we wanted to accept the Bible as God's Word *in toto* if we wanted to be at all successful in the Association work. Many young converts, he said, confessed that they did not find the Bible so full of interest as they expected, but the reason was because they did not have the light of the Holy Spirit illuminating it. They were not commanded to read it, but to *study and search the Scripture* for hidden things, and he did not fear scepticism or infidelity. He thought we studied the Bible too much for other people and not enough for *ourselves*, and then when we get thoroughly filled with it, we shall have power in making it known to others.

The choir then sang "Where hast thou gleaned to-day."

A communication was read from Mr. Russel, the Delegate from the London (England) Association, who was ill, assuring them of the sympathy of their Association in the work in this country, and rejoicing in the successful gathering now in progress.

The following resolutions, moved by T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, seconded by T. W. NISBETT, Sarnia, were adopted:—

Resolved,—That the sincere thanks of the Dominion and the Provincial Convention of Ontario and Quebec be tendered to the Quebec Association for the hearty welcome given to the Delegates, and for their excellent arrangements, which have afforded much satisfaction and pleasure to all.

2nd. To the Christian friends in the city of Quebec who have so generously received into their homes and hospitably entertained the Delegates.

3rd. To the Quebec Association for the delightful drive to the Falls of Montmorenci, and to Henry Fry, Esq., their President, for the lunch provided.

4th. To the Pastors of the different churches for their kindly co-operation and sympathy, also to the Trustees of those churches for the use of their buildings for meetings of the Conventions.

5th. To the ladies and gentlemen composing the choir and Brother Stebbins for the sweet music sung at the meetings.

6th. To the Railway and Steamboat authorities for reduced fares to the Delegates.

To the International Executive Committee for their continued affectionate interest in our work, evinced by their delegating to us our beloved Brother Cree, whose valued counsel has been so effective during the sittings of our Convention.

The remainder of the meeting was occupied by a Praise and Promise service, conducted by T. K. CREE and GEO. C. STEBBINS.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

At 9.30 a consecration meeting was held in Chalmers Church, which was well attended. T. K. CREE conducted the service, and urged that it be a season of personal consecration on the part of the Delegates. The meeting

was one of great power, and many asked for prayer for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit, and for renewed consecration in the work. At 4 o'clock a men's meeting was held in the National School Hall, conducted by T. K. CREE, and assisted by the following brethren: J. E. IRVINE, St. John; W. P. CROMBIE, Toronto; W. D. McNUTT, Halifax; JOHN CURRIE, Montreal; JOS. GOTHWAYTE, Port Hope; D. A. BUDGE, Montreal. At the close of the service several arose for prayer.

FAREWELL MEETING.

The Music Hall was crowded on the occasion of the Farewell Meeting. The PRESIDENT occupied the chair, and opened by singing, "All hail the power of Jesus name," after which prayer was offered by Rev. L. HOOKER, Quebec.

The PRESIDENT said that several days they had the privilege of holding sessions in this city, discussing as to how they could best learn to win the young men of our Dominion for Christ. He believed that they had been greatly blessed themselves and also to others. They would go away with glad hearts, and with more love to the glorious cause in which they were enlisted.

Hon. A. VIDAL, as President of the Provincial Convention of Ontario and Quebec, said the welcome he had received would remain long in his memory, and he trusted they would be fully blessed in return. He hoped the result of this meeting would be a greater interest on the part of the citizens of Quebec, in the local Association, and that they would all feel their sense of individual responsibility with reference to the young men of their city.

T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, thanked them for the welcome they had received, and referred to the blessing which had come to some individuals through their coming to the city.

Mr. STEBBINS then sang as a solo, "The Ninety and Nine."

Mr. G. HAGUE, Montreal, said he gladly spoke on behalf of a cause to which he owed so much. He felt thankful to God that he lived in these days of Christian union. There has been discord enough, and Satan has delighted to see it, but thank God let us praise His name that He is drawing His people together again, and although in different churches, they were all one in Him. The more this spirit is cultivated, just so will the gospel flow more freely. He hoped they would cultivate their oneness of belief, that we might labour together in this great work. In saying farewell he wished them Godspeed in the work in this city.

Rev. Mr. ROGERS, of Truro, N.S., said as a minister he wished to say that while he was loyal to the church, he felt the Association was in no means opposed to the Church of Christ, but rather one of its most valuable auxiliaries. As regards creeds we differ, but when it was a question of attachment to a living Christ, we are one in heart and life. Now we are going out to work, and let us use every opportunity to work for Christ that the hours may be full of blessing.

J. E. IRVINE, St. John; JAMES BLAIR, Truro; J. B. MORROW, Halifax, and J. C. THOMSON, Quebec, also gave brief addresses, when the PRESIDENT declared the Convention to stand adjourned until called to reassemble by the Executive Committee.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

Young Men's Christian Associations,

OF THE

PROVINCES OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC,

HELD IN QUEBEC,

SEPT. 13th to 17th, 1877.

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PROCEEDINGS
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TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

FIRST DAY.

QUEBEC, Thursday, Sept. 13th, 1877.

The Tenth Annual Convention of the Associations of Ontario and Quebec met here to-day at 10.30 o'clock, in the National School Hall, the Hon. A. Vidal, President, occupying the Chair.

The meeting was opened by singing "We praise Thee, oh God," after which Rev. L. Gaetz of Montreal read the Scriptures and engaged in prayer.

Hon. A. VIDAL, the retiring President, expressed his pleasure at meeting the brethren again after the year's work, and also at the presence with them of the brethren from the Maritime Provinces. He feared that the work of the past year had become more Missionary and Evangelistic in its character than what he considered to be the real aim of the Associations—special efforts for young men, but he hoped this would be considered and remedied in the future. After expressing his hope that this meeting would be one of great profit and blessing to all, he thanked the brethren for their kindness and forbearance towards him in the honourable position to which he had been elected.

On motion, D. A. Budge, Montreal, was appointed Minute Secretary *pro tem*.

Moved by J. C. THOMSON, Quebec, seconded by A. B. SMITH, Hamilton:

That the President appoint a Committee to nominate the Officers of Convention for the ensuing year.—*Carried*.

The President appointed the following as Nominating Committee, and asked the permission of the Convention for them to retire at once: A. B. Smith, Hamilton; Jas. A. Gauld, Sherbrooke; D. A. Budge, Montreal, and A. Cowan, Ingersoll.

Moved by J. C. THOMSON, Quebec, seconded by A. B. Smith, Hamilton: That the following be the rules for the guidance and government of our Convention:

"The Officers of this Convention shall be a President, six Vice-Presidents, and two Secretaries.

"Immediately after the election of the above Officers, the President shall receive nominations for four Standing Committees—one on business (including all business of a general nature), one on Devotion, one on Associations, and one on Credentials.

"All resolutions submitted to the Convention shall be in writing, and, after being proposed and seconded, shall be referred to the proper committee, who shall have power to transmit or reject.

"The general rules of order in deliberative assemblies shall prevail, and the ruling of the Chairman shall be final.

"Speakers shall be limited to five minutes each, and shall not speak more than once on the same subject without permission.

"The order of each day's proceedings shall be as follows: Devotional Exercises; Reading Minutes; Call for Resolutions and Propositions; Reading of Communications; Reports of Committees; Unfinished Business." Also:—

That no Committee on Resolutions be appointed, but that the discussion of each topic be closed by the adoption of a resolution upon the subject to be presented by any member, a precedence, however, being allowed to the introducer, if he desire it,—others to be considered amendments.—*Carried.*

Moved by JOS. GOTHWAITE, Port Hope, seconded by H. C. PATTERSON, Cornwall, That all Clergymen, members of Associations and visiting Brethren, not accredited Delegates, are requested to take part in the Convention as Corresponding Members.—*Carried.*

The President then appointed the following Standing Committees:

Business Committee.—Thos. J. Wilkie, Toronto, Chairman; J. Gibson, Guelph;—Coldwell, Ingersoll; W. Givin, Hamilton; R. Henderson, Montreal; W. Brown, Quebec; Mr. Shannon, Kingston.

Devotional Committee.—W. P. Crombie, Toronto, Chairman; Dr. McGuire, Guelph; Mr. Addie, Sherbrooke; W. Frisby, Montreal; G. A. Henderson, Quebec; Mr. Hobart, Kingston; J. Gothwaite, Port Hope.

Credential Committee.—James E. Parke, Quebec, Chairman; F. E. Jodery, Montreal; R. Rolph, Ottawa.

Mr. G. C. STEBBINS, who had been associated with Messrs. Moody and Sankey in their work, as singer of the Gospel, was introduced, and after referring to his slight knowledge of the Canadian brethren, and the pleasure he had in meeting with them in this Convention, sung "My Redeemer," which was followed by prayer by Rev. Messrs. Hooker of Quebec, and Read of Yarmouth.

The Committee on Nomination presented the following as their report of the Officers of Convention for the ensuing year:

PRESIDENT:

HENRY FRY, Quebec.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

G. HAGUE, Montreal.

JAS. HOLDEN, Whitby.

R. BALDWIN, Toronto.

JAS. A. GAULD, Sherbrooke.

Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia.

A. B. SMITH, Hamilton.

MINUTE SECRETARY: D. A. BUDGE, Montreal.

RECORDING SECRETARY: R. ROLPH, Ottawa.

HENRY FRY thanked the Convention for the honour conferred upon him, but felt that on account of his health he was compelled to decline the nomination.

The Committee were asked to retire and reconsider their report.

They immediately returned with the following:

PRESIDENT:

Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

GEORGE HAGUE, Montreal.

JAS. HOLDEN, Whitby.

R. BALDWIN, Toronto,

JAS. A. GAULD, Sherbrooke.

HENRY FRY, Quebec.

A. B. SMITH, Hamilton.

MINUTE SECRETARY: D. A. BUDGE, Montreal.

RECORDING SECRETARY: R. ROLPH, Ottawa.

The above report was received and adopted on motion of J. C. THOMSON, seconded by Rev. L. GAETZ.

Moved by T. J. WILKIE, of Toronto, seconded by J. C. THOMSON, Quebec, That the following brethren be a Committee to select a chairman for the afternoon session and arrange an order of proceedings: J. B. MORROW, Halifax; J. E. IRVINE, St. John; Rev. L. Gaetz, Montreal; J. C. Thomson, Quebec.

Rev. L. GAETZ could not see that the Provincial Convention had power to appoint a Committee to arrange work for the Dominion Convention.

The PRESIDENT said the objection had been foreseen by the brethren, and that it could not be pressed except with the entire consent of the brethren from the Maritime Provinces, and asked a free expression of opinion on the subject.

J. S. MACLEAN, of Halifax, did not see the necessity for the appointment of this committee, but suggested that the Convention be allowed to meet and organize itself.

T. J. WILKIE asked permission to withdraw his motion with the consent of the seconder. The permission was granted.

The PRESIDENT then called upon the Secretary of the Executive Committee to read the Annual Report, which was as follows:—

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S TENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

FROM 19TH OCTOBER, 1876, TO 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1877.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Another year finds us gathered in Convention to report on the important work committed to our trust. And at the outset we desire to express our heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for sparing us in health and strength to meet once more to discuss the work of our Associations and to ask God's blessing on it. We also feel much joy in having with us this year so many of our beloved brethren from the Maritime Provinces whom we have long wished to know personally. May this our first Dominion Convention be rich in blessing. We regret that we have not a more encouraging report to present, and that so little progress has been made, yet we desire not to be unthankful for the marked blessing of God that has been vouchsafed to our work in some places. For the shortcoming, the want of progress, or even the apparent retrogression, we do not wish entirely to exculpate ourselves, yet we cannot help feeling that the fault has not been altogether ours. You will remember that before accepting office from the last Convention we explained the difficulties of the work, and urged upon you the importance of employing another man. It was evident that Mr. Crombie was called more to Evangelistic work than to the proper work of a Travelling Secretary; yet all were unwilling that his connection with our Associations should cease. It was with the distinct understanding that either we should be supplied with funds to employ a second officer, or doing our best with Mr. Crombie should not be expected to meet all the requirements of the field, that we undertook the task. Repeated circulars have been sent out, and we have in other ways endeavoured to raise funds. The Associations have not responded to our requests, and it required all our efforts to keep things going at all. We trust the members of the Convention will bear these facts in mind when considering this report, which we now beg to submit.

Sixty-one Associations were on our roll last year, nine new ones have been organized since the last Convention at the following places: Alton, Brampton, Midland, Minissing, Owen Sound, Brussels, Caledonia, Norwich and the Plains. The last four named have since died for want of executive oversight and visiting. Associations in Belleville, Woodstock and New Market have been re-organized during the year, we hope on a firmer basis than before. Floating reports have also reached us that Associations have been formed in several other small places, but being unable to get the names of reliable persons to correspond with, we are not in a position to report anything concerning them.

The Corresponding Secretary of this Committee has had a great amount of work placed upon him; he has given about two hours a day since the London Convention in correspondence, visiting, &c. We have to lament the carelessness of many of the Associations in neglecting to answer letters and circulars repeatedly sent them, asking for information, as it was our intention to present a correct and complete tabulated list of Associations. The following is as nearly correct as it is possible for us to obtain, having telegraphed to fifteen places to find out about the dead ones. We hope the Delegates present will examine and make any needed corrections, so that it may appear in our annual report as a reliable source of information.

Mr. CROMBIE has visited the following places since the last Convention:—*Sarnia*, one and a-half days, good meetings. *London*, seventeen days, partial success. *Ingersoll*, twenty-eight days, great success, many souls saved and the Association much revived and strengthened. *Woodstock*, fourteen days, successful meetings, additions to the churches, but the Association little benefited. *Barrie*, twenty-two days, great awakening, churches all

way our work would be greatly strengthened and blessed, and a regular systematic plan established of carrying on the same. There are many places where Young Men's Christian Associations ought to be formed. Among others we would note St. Catharines, St. Thomas, Strathroy, Picton, Trenton, and Napanee, in the West.

We are glad to report some progress in railway work. Successful meetings are now being held in Stratford, St. Thomas, and Uxbridge, two each Sabbath in Toronto. Another important work opening up for us is that among commercial travellers and in colleges. Special attention was called to it at the Louisville Convention. We desire to call special attention to "The Watchman," a paper published every two weeks by Mr. W. W. Vanarsdale, of Chicago, Ill., replete with Association news. No Y. M. C. A. worker can afford to be without it.

We would remind our brethren of the Convention that the second Lord's day in November, as usual, was set apart by the International Convention as a day of special prayer for young men, and we recommend that each Association observe it accordingly, and arrange with the Ministers in the several churches to preach special sermons to young men.

We have little to report about new Association buildings, but are pleased to notice progress in this direction in the cities of Quebec and Hamilton.

The following is a list of the subscriptions received from Associations and private individuals towards the expenses of the Executive Committee:—

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM ASSOCIATIONS.

Paris.....	\$2 00	Mr. Crosslin.....	\$1 00
Whitby.....	20 00	H. Macmahon.....	1 00
Cobourg.....	11 20	Mr. Smith.....	1 00
Sarnia.....	24 00	Mr. Thomson.....	1 00
Hamilton.....	25 00	Adam Nichol.....	5 00
Barrie, (Donation).....	50 00	F. Sailor.....	1 00
Quebec.....	40 00	Hugh McMath.....	1 00
Toronto.....	50 00	Rev. Mr. Cameron.....	1 00
Galt, (Thank offering).....	10 00	Sundry names not on list.....	4 00
Port Hope.....	15 00	Mr. Holden, Bible Class.....	15 00
Uxbridge.....	10 00	James Holden.....	25 00
		J. J. Gartshore.....	10 00
		Geo. Hague.....	50 00
		Mr. Caldecott.....	5 00
		J. J. Woodhouse.....	5 00
		J. B. Moore.....	25 00
		J. O. Anderson.....	5 00
		Robt. Kilgour.....	25 00
		Rev. R. Cameron.....	10 00
		Mr. Morton.....	25 00
		John Moffatt.....	6 00
		S. R. Briggs.....	10 00
		W. Given.....	5 00
		Robt. Baldwin.....	50 00
		J. A. Ardagh.....	5 00
		David Ross.....	10 00
		Hon. A. Vidal.....	20 00
		S. C. Duncan Clarke.....	30 00
		T. S. Cole.....	20 00
		Sheriff Hall.....	10 00
		J. Macdonald, M.P.....	50 00
		G. Powell.....	1 40
		<i>W. P. Crombie</i>	<i>50.00</i>

PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

W. Simmons.....	2 00
W. Muir.....	5 00
Thos. Benner.....	3 00
D. A. Budge.....	5 00
W. Powell.....	1 00
P. Kuchtell.....	5 00
Dr. Maguire.....	4 00
A. Wilson.....	5 00
Hon. Vidal.....	1 00
Sheriff Hall.....	1 00
B. Armstrong.....	1 00
W. Orr.....	1 00
S. C. Duncan Clarke.....	1 00
Robert Baldwin.....	1 00
M. Muir.....	1 00
A. Harvey.....	5 00
J. Hogarth.....	4 00
G. Manson.....	5 00
Mr. Pierce.....	1 00
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SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

For W. P. Crombie's Trip.

Dr. O'Meara and few friends. \$21 00	J. C. Thompson.....	\$5 00
T. Cockshutt..... 10 00	G. Hague.....	10 00
S. C. Duncan Clarke..... 10 00	H. Fox.....	5 00

The Report was received and submitted to the following Committee to report upon Saturday morning: T. W. Nisbett, President; R. Henderson, Montreal; A. B. Smith, Hamilton; J. C. Thomson, Quebec.

REPORT OF TOUR IN PROVINCE OF ONTARIO BY THOMAS K. CREE.

Following the instructions of the Executive Committee, and at the invitation of the Provincial Committee of Ontario, I left New York, April 11th, 1877, to visit the Associations of Ontario. The tour had been arranged by the Provincial Committee. At Dundas, I met Mr. W. P. Crombie, Provincial Secretary, and together we visited Dundas, Brantford, Paris, Ayr, Woodstock, Stratford, Galt, Guelph, Fergus, Elora, Brampton, Toronto, Port Hope, Whitby, Oshawa, Bowmanville, Cobourg, Peterboro', Belleville, and Kingston, spending from one to three days in each place. We were joined at Dundas by Mr. Briggs, at Brantford by Mr. Wilkie, and at Fergus by Mr. Manners and Mr. Elliott. At almost every point large and interesting meetings were held, and while the distinctive work of the Association in seeking young men was strongly urged, evidence of deep spiritual interest was everywhere manifested. Conferences with the members of the Associations and those interested in the cause were held at each point. The details of the local work were fully discussed, and practical suggestions offered. The number of Associations in the Province is quite remarkable, and is due largely to the effort of the Provincial and International Committees, and to the self-sacrificing friends of the cause. The buildings owned by them show the appreciation in which they are held, and gracious revivals have followed the work of the Provincial Committee at different points in which they have made protracted effort. As the result of the tour we venture the following general comments on the work in the Province as it came under our observation.

1st. Very much has been accomplished in the work to approve. As has just been indicated in the present tour, efficient co-operation was received at every point. I cannot too highly express my obligation to Mr. Crombie, by whose co-operation and assistance the tour was made a success, and who, though feeling himself specially called to labour as an Evangelist, is so thoroughly in sympathy with the Associations. To his efficient labours many of the Societies of the Province are deeply indebted.

2nd. But there is need of a more efficient advisory supervision of the work; a more frequent visitation for conference, and a better understanding by the Committees of the wants of the Association. This would develop a heartier sympathy with the International and Provincial Committees on their work.

3rd. At some points a good work is being done by young men, but nothing specially for young men. The fact that our Associations are designed to improve the mental and moral well-being of young men, as well as to promote their spiritual life, is lost sight of. In this way our work loses its distinctive features, and fails to interest the business community, and the question is then raised whether it is really a help or hindrance to the work of the Churches.

4th. The need of more careful business management is evident. At some

points rooms are rented and but little used, debts contracted and but little to show for them, and the work drifts along rather than being carefully planned and efficiently prosecuted, resulting in indifference on the part of members, lack of faith in the permanency of the work, and lack of interest on the part of the general public.

5th. The provision by the Government in aid of public libraries and reading rooms could be made available by those acting in harmony with our work, or if not, reading or other rooms in connection with our work, in the smaller cities, towns and villages, though desirable, are not essential, and the work could be efficiently carried on without them.

6th. At most points, variety in the work is needed. The study of the Bible should be pressed as its importance demands, and the service of song could be called into use more frequently and efficiently. Praise and promise meetings are too infrequent, and Sociables, Lectures, Concerts, Musical Entertainments, Literary Societies, &c., are seldom resorted to. Few of the Associations are doing any thing specially for boys, ignoring the fact that "the boys of to-day will be the young men of to-morrow."

The tour occupied from April 14th to May 19th, inclusive.

A tabular statement of the points visited is appended.

In thirty-six days, twenty places were visited, in which one hundred meetings were held as follows:

Association meetings in which the Association and its work was presented	27
Conferences on local Association work	25
General devotional meetings	17
Bible readings	7
Consecration meetings	4
Young men's Gospel meetings	5
General Gospel meetings	2
Second meetings	9
Praise and promise meetings	3
Temperance meetings	1
Total	100

Dundas, April 14, 15, 16.—Held afternoon meetings in Y. M. C. A. rooms, evening, and Sunday meetings in Town Hall. Presented the work of the Association, and Sunday afternoon held a Gospel meeting for young men. Considerable interest manifested at the Sunday night meeting. Held a conference with the Association at the close of the Saturday and Monday night meetings. Have rooms, are fairly active, number of workers not large, and not doing much for young men.

Paris, 17th.—Held a devotional meeting and conference with the Association and others interested. Are doing nothing. Presented the importance of the work, and urged immediate action on the part of the members. Have a good room, nicely furnished, free of rent.

Ayr, 18th.—Held an Association meeting, presented the claims and work of the Association. Some spiritual interest manifested. Held a conference with the Association and its friends in regard to their work. Have a room, are doing a fair work, but not much for young men, of whom there are many in the village.

Brantford, 19th.—Held a devotional meeting, a meeting in which were presented the claims of the Association, two conferences on the local work. Have a fine building; finances need attention, and special work for young men not receiving attention it deserves. Needs a Secretary who can give all his time to the work.

Woodstock, 20, 21, 22.—Held afternoon meetings in Church evening, and Sunday meetings in Town Hall, attendance very large. Presented the general work of the Association and its importance; held a Gospel meeting for young men, two conferences on local work, gave a Bible reading, held a general Gospel meeting, and held a consecration meeting. Much spiritual interest manifested. Association suspended some time ago with an unpaid debt; arrangements made to pay the debt and reorganize the Association. A good field for Association effort, and a few evinced much interest in the project.

Stratford, 23, 24, 25.—Meetings all in the Town Hall. Held a devotional meeting, two Bible readings, one Gospel meeting, a praise and promise meeting, two meetings in which were presented the Association and the work, two second meetings, two conferences with Association. Much spiritual interest evinced in the meetings. Have a room on third floor, used only on Sunday and Monday. Are doing little specially for young men. An important point for effort in behalf of young men.

Galt, 26, 27.—Held a devotional meeting, a Bible reading, two Association meetings, a conference, a praise and promise meeting, a second meeting. Much spiritual interest manifested. Association owns a small building, are in good condition and doing a good work.

Guelph, 28, 29, 30.—Held a devotional meeting, a consecration meeting, a young men's Gospel meeting, a Bible reading, two Association meetings, two second meetings, one conference. Considerable spiritual interest manifested. Association are doing but little, have rooms used only on Sundays, have a small band of workers, are doing little for young men. A good field for Association effort. Finances need attention.

Fergus, May 1st.—One devotional meeting, one praise and promise meeting, one Association meeting, one second meeting, one conference. Some spiritual interest manifested. Association is doing but little.

Elora, 2.—One devotional meeting, one Association meeting, one conference. Some spiritual interest manifested. Association have rooms, are doing a good devotional work, conducted by elderly men; few young men interested in the work.

Toronto, 3.—Spoke at annual meeting, a good audience and an interesting meeting. Association have a fine building, a general secretary and assistant, and doing a good work.

Brampton, 4.—Held an Association meeting and a conference at which it was decided to organize an Association. Work gives promise of success.

Port Hope, 6.—Held one consecration meeting, one young men's Gospel meeting, one conference, one association meeting, one second meeting. Much spiritual interest manifested. Have a good building, employ a general secretary, and doing a good work.

Whitby, 7.—Held an Association meeting and a conference. Some spiritual interest manifested. Association have a room open Sunday and Friday nights, one prayer meeting, one literary society.

Oshawa, 8, 9.—Held two devotional meetings, one Association meeting, two conferences. Considerable spiritual interest manifested. Association have reading rooms and library, are doing but little work. Had under consideration question whether rooms should be given up, decided unanimously to continue the work, and go more actively into Association effort.

Bowmanville, 10.—Held one devotional meeting, one Association meeting, one conference. Some spiritual interest manifested. Not doing much for young men.

Cobourg, 11.—Held one devotional meeting, one Association meeting, one conference. Have Reading room and Hall. Are doing an active spiritual work. Have just had a successful series of meetings under auspices of Association, a large number converted and engaged in the work.

Peterboro', 12, 13.—Held two devotional meetings, one young men's Gospel meeting, one Association meeting, one conference. Much spiritual interest. Have a room, but hold no regular meetings. Are doing nothing for young men; finances need attention; decided to go into active work.

Belleville, 14, 15.—Two devotional meetings, two Association meetings, one conference. A new organization. Have rooms, are just getting to work.

Kingston, 17, 18.—One devotional meeting, one Bible reading, two Association meetings, two conferences. Some spiritual interest. Have good rooms, a general secretary, are doing a good work.

On motion the Convention then adjourned to meet at 9.30 Saturday.

SECOND SESSION.—SATURDAY MORNING.

The Convention assembled at 9.45, with the President, Hon. A. VIDAL, in the Chair.

The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. D. MARSH, Quebec.

The minutes of the previous Session were read and on motion confirmed.

A communication was read from the Kingston Y. M. C. A. sending greeting—Titus III. 15—and cordially inviting the Convention to assemble in this city next year. Also from a small country Y. M. C. A. in Minessing, Ont., notifying the Convention of their existence, and stating that they had 40 members, and were doing a good work.

Dr. McGUIRE, of Guelph, sent a message regretting his unavoidable absence.

From A. G. MURRAY, Ingersoll, sending greeting, and asking Convention to assemble there next year.

After singing "What a friend we have in Jesus,"

Mr. GIVIN, Hamilton, referred to the special Gospel Temperance work that they had carried on in connection with their Association.

Mr. ADDIE, of Sherbrooke, referred to the work as being full of interest. He felt the necessity of going after those who would not come to the Rooms. He advised strongly personal work. Harlam Page kept two things constantly before him on meeting a soul—this soul is immortal—how can I win it for Christ? They had in town a Temperance Reform Club doing a good work.

T. GIBSON, Guelph, reported a thriving Association of about one hundred members. A very interesting work in the Jail, also in the cause of Temperance.

A. B. COWAN, Ingersoll, said they had an active membership of 105. They enjoyed a blessed revival last year through the visit of Mr. Crombie, and many of these converts are now active workers. They distributed 20,000 tracts, and gave Bible Class work special prominence. They had actively taken hold of the Temperance movement.

WILLIAM FRISBY, Montreal, referred to the Temperance work carried on by Bro. Currie, not in an Association, but in a Saloon known as Joe Beef's, where in the very lion's den the servants of God are fighting against this

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course. As a result of this work many young men had been "plucked as brands from the burning," and were living useful, consistent Christian lives.

The special Committee on the Executive Committee's Report submitted the following :

Having heard the report of the Executive Committee on their work for the past year, it is hereby resolved that the following be the finding of this Convention on the matters therein referred to, viz:—

The principal reason why more has not been accomplished, and why in some cases there has been a retrograde movement, is that there has been a lack of visitation of Associations.

That for this no blame attaches to the Executive, as the necessary funds have not been supplied for this work by the Associations. And that by last Convention they were required to keep Brother Crombie engaged in his sphere of Evangelistic work.

That we learn with regret of the illness of our esteemed Brother Crombie, by which the work was seriously interfered with. We heartily endorse the action of the Executive in granting him leave of absence, and rejoice to see him again among us in a measure of restored health. Seeing that it is absolutely necessary for the general welfare of existing Associations, and the formation of others, that a Travelling Secretary should be employed to attend exclusively to this work, and that Brother Crombie desires to be relieved from the position of Travelling Secretary, in order that he may devote himself entirely to Evangelistic work, the Executive are hereby empowered and instructed to engage a competent man to fill that office.

That in view of the difficulty the Secretary has experienced in obtaining correct information on which to base his statistical report, we earnestly impress upon all Associations the importance of responding promptly and fully to his circulars asking for this information.

In view of the action of the Dominion Convention in declining to assume the responsibilities and work of the Provincial Conventions, we deem it unwise to adopt the recommendation of the Report, "That Montreal should be made the centre of the Executive Committee's work," Toronto being so much more central.

That we cordially concur in the suggestion of the report that the Association organ, "The Watchman," should be well patronized by all Association workers.

We heartily endorse the recommendation of the Executive as to the observance by all Associations of the usual day of prayer appointed by the International Convention, viz., the 2nd Sabbath of November, on which, as far as practicable, special sermons should be preached to young men.

In conclusion we would render hearty thanks to God for the measure of success that has accompanied our work in the past year, and pledge ourselves to more earnest effort in the future; and for the prosecution of the executive work of the coming year we recommend that an effort be made to raise the sum of \$2,000.

Moved by D. A. BUDGE, Montreal, seconded by ROBT. HENDERSON, Montreal: That this report be received and adopted.

Moved in amendment by W. GIVIN, Hamilton, seconded by T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, That the report of the Committee on Executive Committee report

be amended, so that the Executive for Ontario and Quebec be transferred from Toronto to Montreal.

T. K. CREE, New York, suggested that if the Committee could secure the services of a good man who would systematically visit all the Associations, the financial difficulty would in great measure be removed. He advocated the division of the Provinces into districts, and the holding of local conferences.

The amendment was sustained by the mover and seconder, also Rev. L. HOOKER, Quebec, on the ground that Montreal had strong Association men, and also that a change from Toronto where it had been located for ten years would be beneficial.

The motion for adoption was sustained by the mover and seconder, also Rev. L. GAETZ, Montreal, and T. W. NISBETT, Sarnia, on the ground that Toronto was more central and therefore the best place for the headquarters of the Executive Committee.

Before calling for the vote, the President asked the Convention to join in prayer, seeking Divine guidance in the matter.

The vote was then taken, which resulted in the adoption of the original motion by a large majority.

Moved by T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, seconded by Rev. L. HOOKER, Quebec, That Geo. Hague, Montreal; J. C. Thomson, Quebec; J. D. Clark, Toronto; Hon. A. Vidal, Sarnia, be appointed as Finance Committee, to be responsible for raising the \$2000 to carry forward the work, or whatever amount the Convention might vote.—Lost.

On motion of T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, seconded by R. HENDERSON, Montreal, The following brethren were appointed to act as the Executive Committee for the ensuing year :

ROBERT BALDWIN, Toronto, Chairman.

S. C. DUNCAN CLARK, Toronto.	Hon. A. VIDAL, Sarnia.
S. R. BRIGGS, “	Geo. HAGUE, Montreal.
K. KILGOUR, “	Geo. YOUNG, “
J. GARTSHORE, “	Jno. THOMSON, Quebec.
J. DEMPSTER, “	DENNIS MOORE, Hamilton.
T. J. WILKIE, “	W. P. CROMBIE, Toronto.

Invitations from the Associations at Hamilton, Ingersoll, and Kingston were received, each one asking the Convention to hold its next session in their city.

After the several delegations had pressed their invitation, the vote of the Convention was taken and found to be in favour of Hamilton.

J. S. MACLEAN, Halifax, President of the Dominion Convention, desired to say a few words before the adjournment. He wished to express how very full of gratification had been his visit to Quebec and the time he had spent at this Convention. He felt so proud of the honours that had been entrusted

to him, that if he was not afraid it might savour of pomposity, he would like to write his name on the hotel books wherever he went. "John Maclean, President of the Dominion Y. M. C. A." He expressed the feeling of loneliness which he experienced in Paris last year on the Sabbath, till he found the rooms of the Y. M. C. A., and entering them, met with forty young men assembled to read God's Word together. Then he felt, even in Paris, on a Sunday, as if really at home when in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. He earnestly entreated all who heard him to engage actively in work for the advancement of Christ's kingdom, and related how in answer to prayer, and as signs of approval for his endeavours to win souls, God had blessed him in his business, and brought his three children to a saving faith in Jesus.

The Convention then adjourned to meet on Monday morning at 9.30 to conclude the business of the session.

MONDAY MORNING.

The PRESIDENT called the Convention to order at 10 a. m.

After devotional exercises the minutes of previous meetings were read, and after amendment, confirmed on motion.

Mr. NISBETT, Sarnia, as Chairman of the Committee on Executive Committee report, presented the following abstract of the Treasurer's statement:

ABSTRACT TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Receipts:—Association Subscriptions	\$253 20
Private	541 40
" " account Crombie's Trip.	61 00
Re-donated by W. P. Crombie	61 00
Reports sold	6 00
N. Y. Executive for Crombie's expenses visiting in U. S.	16 43
Balance from last year	6 57

\$945 60

Disbursements:—Sundry Travelling Expenses visiting Associations	35 20
Crombie's Travelling Expenses	101 77
W. P. Crombie, on account salary	582 12
T. J. Wilkie	100 00
On account Expenses London Convention	28 35
Harrisburg Reading Rooms	11 00
Stationery	11 40
Postage	13 75
Telegrams	1 01
Paid to W. P. Crombie special subscriptions for trip but re-donated by him	61 00

\$945 60

The Committee have audited the accounts and find them correct. They further find that of the subscriptions pledged by Associations and

individuals there remains unpaid the sum of \$365, and that, after deducting the amount of the unpaid pledges in London from an account due to London for Convention reports, the assets and liabilities are:

Assets:—Pledged subscriptions estimated good.....	\$110 00
Liabilities due to W. P. Urombie on salary.....	181 75
“ “ “ “ expenses.....	11 00
“ “ to London Association.....	8 02
	<hr/>
	\$200 77
Deficiency.....	\$90 77

Audited and found correct.

T. W. NISBETT, }
R. HENDERSON, } *Auditors.*

On motion of T. W. NISBETT, Sarnia, seconded by W. GIVIN, Hamilton, The above statement was received and adopted.

T. K. CREE suggested that Mr. Hague send a personal letter to all defaulters in last year's list, urging immediate payment of amounts overdue.

GEORGE HAGUE, Montreal, suggested the establishment of a "Guarantee Fund" to enable the Committee to place a Secretary in the field for six months at least, from whom reports could be received, through which subscriptions could be more easily solicited and obtained.

The following subscriptions were received on behalf of the Executive Committee's work for the ensuing year:—

		No. of Reports.
Cornwall.....	\$10 00	12
Hamilton.....	50 00	12
Ingersoll.....	10 00	12
Ottawa.....	20 00	6
Port Hope.....	15 00	12
Sarnia.....	20 00	12
Toronto.....	50 00	25
Kingston.....	15 00	10
Guelph.....	20 00	12
Montreal.....	25 00	12
Sherbrooke.....	10 00	6
Quebec.....	20 00	20
Lakefield.....	5 00	

Personal Subscriptions.

J. C. Thomson, Quebec.....	\$10 00
T. W. Nisbett, Sarnia.....	10 00
D. A. Budge, Montreal.....	5 00
F. E. Jodery, Montreal.....	5 00
C. Dobbs, Kingston.....	5 00
— Gibson, Guelph.....	5 00
W. Brown, Quebec.....	5 00
J. Park & Son, Quebec.....	5 00
Jos. Gothwaite, Port Hope.....	4 00
A. T. Conan, Ingersoll.....	2 00
E. Chambers, Quebec.....	2 00

Guarantee Fund for Travelling Secretary.

Geo. Hague, Montreal.....	\$100 00
Thos. J. Wilkie, Toronto.....	50 00
Thos. S. Cole, Quebec.....	15 00

Moved by E. T. CHAMBERS, Quebec, seconded by GEO. HAGUE, Montreal : That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to our Brother Crombie for his very unselfish and self-denying labours in the evangelistic work in connection with the Y. M. C. A. which have met with such glorious results in all parts of the Dominion, and that the Executive Committee be asked to embody in a more formal manner the contents of this resolution and send it to Bro. Crombie.—*Carried.*

W. P. CROMBIE, Toronto, desired to thank the brethren for the great kindness they had always shown him in the work. He did not feel himself qualified for the special work the Associations needed at this time, and therefore had resigned, but hoped they would secure a good man. He felt specially called to evangelistic labours, and although he had not the gift of eloquent speech, he had now learned to thank God for it, as the results must be imputed alone to the mighty power of God. Although severed officially, he always desired to work for and with the Young Men's Christian Associations.

After singing "Blest be the tie that binds," Mr. T. K. CREE engaged in special prayer for Mr. Crombie and his work.

Mr. HAGUE, Montreal, being called upon for a few words, trusted that all present would do their utmost to bring with them the principles of the religion which they professed into their daily life. All have to lead a secular as well as a religious life, and he could tell them how difficult a matter it is in these days of keen competition and worldliness to carry religion with us into mercantile life. For himself he has never felt so much the beauty of God's divine promises to sustain and support us as during the last six months. In fact, he really believed that but for the support which the Gospel of Christ gave him he could never have borne the heavy load of work and responsibility which had been laid upon him of late. He knew how the world pointed the finger of scorn at and derided the Christian, but it was for God's children to show by their character that they acted up to their profession.

Mr. BUDGE, Montreal, addressed the Convention on the duty and importance of prayer. He thought there was not enough prayer amongst Association workers.

On motion of T. J. WILKIE, Toronto, seconded by A. B. SMITH, Hamilton : The thanks of the Convention were tendered to Hon. A. Vidal, for the able manner in which he had fulfilled the office of Chairman.

The Doxology was then sung, when the PRESIDENT declared the Convention adjourned, to meet again next year in Hamilton, at the call of the Executive Committee.

Almonte.....
Ayr.....
Alton.....
Barrie.....
Brantford.....
Bowmanville.....
Belleville.....
Brampton.....
Cornwall.....
Cobourg.....
Dundas.....
Elora.....
Fergus.....
Galt.....
Guelph.....
Hamilton.....
Ingersoll.....
Kingston.....
London.....
Meaford.....
Midland.....
Montreal.....
Montreal.....
Norwich.....
Newmarket.....
Ottawa.....
Orangeville.....
Oshawa.....
Owen Sound.....
Orillia.....
Port Hope.....
Paris.....
Plains, New.....
Peterborough.....
Quebec.....
Sarnia.....
Simcoe.....
Stratford.....
Sherbrooke.....
Three Rivers.....
Toronto.....
Woodstock.....
Whitby.....
Walkerton.....
Windsor.....

Cedar Creek.....
Goderich.....
Harrisburg.....
Lancaster.....
Mount Hope.....
Mississauga.....
Point Edward.....
St. Thomas.....
Uxbridge.....
Winnipeg.....

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE YOUNG MEN'S, CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC, SEPTEMBER, 1877.

ASSOCIATION.	PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.	WHEN ORGANIZED.	Members Active.	Members Associate.	Reading Room.	MEETINGS.
Almonte.....	Jos. Jamison.....	P. C. McGregor.....		18	12	No.	Social, Gospel, Temperance, and Prayer Meetings.
Ayr.....	Rev. J. Thompson.....	E. Currie.....	Feb. 9th, 1875.....	16		No.	Bible Meeting, Tuesday.
Alton.....	James Meek.....	Geo. W. McClellan.....		20	25	No.	Prayer Meetings and Lectures.
Barrie.....	Jas. Strong.....	S. Varley.....	October, 1876.....	90		No.	Cottage, Evangelistic, and Prayer Meetings.
Brantford.....	Wm. Wilkinson, M. A.....	Wm. Foster.....		188	102	No.	Cottage, Evangelistic, Prayer and Business Meetings.
Bownanville.....	Dr. McLaughlin.....	M. C. Galbraith.....	March, 1872.....	40	15	No.	Bible, Cottage, and Business.
Belleville.....	W. E. Holton.....	Wm. J. Shanks.....	Oct. 30th, 1876.....	33	7	Yes.	Prayer, Gospel, and Bible.
Brampton.....	J. H. Elliott.....	J. E. Starr.....	April, 1877.....	20	15	No.	Business, Prayer, Gospel.
Cornwall.....	Wm. Mack.....	P. S. Campbell.....	Aug., 1876.....	64	20	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Bible, Evangelistic, Canal, and S. School.
Cobourg.....	O. W. Powell.....	Jno. W. Bickle.....		80	50	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Cottage, Wharf, Bible, Evangelistic, and Jail.
Dundas.....	E. Morrish.....	J. Roach.....		40	5	No.	Business, Prayer, and Cottage.
Elora.....	Jno. Fraser.....	W. Findlay.....				No.	Prayer and Social.
Fergus.....	Robt. Phillips.....	Wm. Moorehead.....	March, 1872.....			No.	Social, Business, Bible, Evangelistic, S. School, and Prayer.
Galt.....	Robt. Alexander.....	Jas. R. Cavers.....	April, 1867.....	45	5	No.	Social, Business, Bible, Evangelistic, and Bible.
Guelph.....	Gilbert Muddock.....	T. Gibson.....	Oct., 1869.....	55	32	No.	Social, Business, Bible, Prayer, Song, Jail, Cottage, and Evangelistic.
Hamilton.....	Dennis Moore.....	Wm. Givin, G.....	Oct. 15th, 1867.....	148	30	Yes.	Prayer, Business, Bible, Class, Temperance.
Ingersoll.....				105		Yes.	Evangelistic, Boys, Singing, Bible, Prayer, Railway, Business, &c.
Kingston.....	R. V. Rogers.....	G. B. Meadows, G.....	Oct. 21st, 1873.....	148	50	Yes.	Prayer, Cottage, and Evangelistic.
London.....	Thos. McCormac.....	W. J. Freedland, G.....	April 4th, 1873.....	207	31	Yes.	Prayer and Gospel.
Meaford.....	Saml. McIlvanie.....	Thos. Cowherd.....	Aug. 2nd, 1876.....	38	22	Yes.	Cottage, Bible, Business, and Prayer.
Midland.....	Wm. Crawford.....	W. B. Strathern.....	Nov. 1st, 1876.....	7	5	No.	Prayer, Bible, Business, and Prayer.
Montreal.....	T. James Claxton.....	D. A. Budge, G.....	Dec., 1851.....	552	437	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Bible, Singing, and Evangelistic.
Montreal, East.....	W. W. McClellan.....	C. E. Tutton.....	March 26th, 1877.....	40	36	Yes.	Prayer and Social.
Norwich.....	James Barr.....	G. E. Stanhoff.....	Feb. 6th, 1876.....	25	12	No.	Cottage, Bible, Business, and Prayer.
Newmarket.....	J. E. Hollingshead.....	L. G. Jackson.....	Nov. 23rd, 1875.....	19	3	No.	Prayer and Sermons to Young Men in Churches.
Ottawa.....	J. L. Orme.....	Raymond Rolph.....	June, 1857.....	140	100	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Bible, Singing, and Evangelistic.
Orangeville.....	John Green.....	Robt. W. Greig.....	Aug. 3rd, 1876.....	44	20	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Gospel, Bible, and Cottage.
Oshawa.....	John Steele.....	Saml. Wood.....		50	50	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Social, Evangelistic.
Owen Sound.....	John Tait.....	David Creighton.....	June 5th, 1877.....	45	19	Yes.	Prayer, Boats, Business, and Evangelistic.
Orillia.....	Thos. Dallas.....	H. Cooke.....	Dec. 9th, 1872.....	33	15	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Open Air, and Social.
Port Hope.....	W. A. Copeland.....	T. W. Benner, G.....	1867.....	93	36	Yes.	Literary, Prayer, Cottage, Bible, Business, &c., &c.
Paris.....	W. E. Adams.....			16		No.	Prayer and Social.
Plains, New Aberdeen P. O.....	Alex. McRae.....	T. Bithray.....				Yes.	Prayer, Bible, Gospel.
Peterborough.....	J. F. Jeffers.....	Thos. S. Cole, G.....	Jan., 1870.....	182	190	Yes.	Business, Prayer, Hospital, Jail, Citadel, Social, and Evangelistic.
Quebec.....	Henry Fry.....	Thos. White.....	Nov., 1872.....	70	50	Yes.	Prayer, Bible, Gospel, Social, Song, and Evangelistic.
Sarnia.....	T. W. Nisbet.....	J. R. Anderson.....	Dec. 13th, 1875.....	30	20	Yes.	Prayer, Jail, and Alms House.
Simcoe.....	F. F. Blackader.....	N. Dickenson.....		49		No.	Prayer, Gospel, Cottage, and Business.
Stratford.....	D. Davis.....	Jas. A. Gauld.....		25	9	No.	Prayer, Gospel, and Business.
Sherbrooke.....	Hy. Hubbard.....	S. Trenaman.....	Dec. 22nd, 1875.....			Yes.	Business, Daily and Weekly, Prayer, Bible, Social, Evangelistic, Saloon, Hospital, Bethel, Railways, &c.
Three Rivers.....	Geo. B. Houliston.....					No.	Prayer and Gospel.
Toronto.....	John McDonald, M. P.....	Thos. J. Wilkie, G.....	June, 1864.....			No.	Gospel, Prayer, and Business.
Woodstock.....	Thos. Mair.....	C. H. Hill.....	June, 1877.....	10	15	No.	Prayer, Social, and Evangelistic.
Whitby.....	James Holden.....	J. S. Robertson.....	Oct., 1874.....	26	30	No.	Prayer, Social, and Evangelistic.
Walkerton.....	Clendenning.....	Robson.....	May 12th, 1877.....	15		No.	
Windsor.....	Jno. McRae.....	Alex. Bartlett.....				No.	
Cedar Creek.....		ASSOCIATIONS NOT NAMED	IN	ST	ATT	STATISTICAL REPORT.	
Goderich.....							
Harrisburg.....							
Lancaster.....							Railway, Reading Room.
Mount Hope.....							
Minising.....							
Point Edward.....							
St. Thomas.....							
Uxbridge.....							Railway Branch.
Winnipeg.....							Railway Branch.