

SHAFTESBURY HALL

WEEKLY BULLETIN.

PUBLISHED BY THE
TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

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No. 19.



EBENEZER

Hitherto, hath the Lord
helped us.—1 Sam. vii. 12.

**JEHOVAH
JIREH.**

The Lord will provide.
—Gen. xxii. 14

DOUBLE NUMBER.

We publish this special double number of the Bulletin for circulation at our 17th anniversary.

HOME AGAIN.

ACORDIAL welcome is extended to our worthy Vice President, John Macdonald, Esq., on his return from a visit to the Old Land, and we hope that at some early date we shall have the pleasure of hearing from him as to Christian and other work witnessed during his visit.

HISTORICAL.

IN briefly reviewing the history of Association work, we cannot but be impressed with the marvellous growth and prosperity which is everywhere evident. We are so prone to limit our thoughts concerning any work, to the narrow sphere in which we ourselves labor, that but few take ground sufficiently elevated to furnish a broad outlook, and wide range of vision. This is perhaps too often the case with Association workers. They look simply at their own Association and its work. If all seems to be prosperous—at once they decide that Y. M. C. Associations are a great success; if, on the other hand, difficulties beset the path, opposition is encountered, apathy and almost deadness marks the membership, at once the cry is, "Associations are a failure." Let us, however, get to a position where we can view the progress of Associations generally, and we must be convinced that the blessing of God assuredly attends this branch of the Church's work. We say the Church's work, and we mean it. We are not an organization independent of the Church; and we believe that an Association, which would declare itself to be so, would speedily lose every right thinking Christian man from its membership. The almost universal recognition of this relationship is one of the principal causes which under God have led to such grand results.

It is probable that some of our readers will be astonished to learn that there is no part of the world which has not its Young Men's Christian Association—that the chain now extends around the entire globe, embracing within its Christian bond, people of every clime and tongue. In each Province of our Dominion—in Newfoundland—in the United States—in priest ridden Mexico—

in old England—bonnie Scotland—the Emerald Isle—in catholic France and Spain—amid the mountains of Switzerland—in Denmark and Norway—among the sturdy natives of Prussia—in Rome itself—in the land of the Czar—in the Celestial Empire—in Japan so long bolted and barred—along India's coral strand—in far off Kaffir Land—in the land of the Pharaohs—in Mahomedan Turkey—in the islands of the Pacific—aye—and in that land where Christianity first saw light, even in the town of Nazareth itself this organization has effected a footing and entered upon its work.

Young Men's Christian Associations are not a thing of yesterday. They have (under their present form) existed long enough to lay claim to permanence. But united effort of "young men for young men" is not a peculiarity of the present day, or even the present century. As far back as 1632 a number of London apprentices united together "for prayer, reading, and religious conversation: for the mutual communication of knowledge, and with a view of strengthening each other against the solicitations of evil company."

Still later on (about the year 1678) an Association of Young Men was formed, for the purpose of mutual edification in Godliness. In order to secure proper decorum, a code of rules were adopted, and the Association was thus fully organized.

The original design was simply to afford each other "mutual assistance and consolation in their Christian warfare," that they "might better maintain their integrity in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation." But a desire to benefit others soon entered into their plans. *Individual* effort was the order of the day, and it was decided that "every one should endeavor to bring in one other at least into their Society."

The following incident in connection with their work is cited by the Rev. Josiah Woodward, Incumbent of Poplar (who published an account of the rise and progress of these Societies):—

"I was present at one of their conferences, when a very poor man came, with most earnest affection, to return them thanks for what they had done both for his body and soul. It seems he was a perfect stranger to them all.

and to every other person in the place, when God cast him down by a sharp and long sickness, in which (as he said) his body and soul had like to have perished together. He had lived a very ill life, and been much disused to the ordinances of God, by reason of his seafaring life: and being now come on shore sick, and being above a hundred miles from his abode and acquaintance, he fell into great want. Upon which, some of this Society perceiving his distress, recommended him to the rest; and they readily allowed him a weekly pension for eight weeks together, till he was recovered. And one of the Society being a chirurgeon, carefully dressed a very grievous sore which he had, and by God's blessing restored it to perfect soundness. Others of them went to him and read good books by his bed, which tended to the improvement of God's visitation upon him: they also fetched the minister of the place to him, who visited him often, and prayed by him, and got a collection from some charitable neighbors for him. And upon the whole he recovered, and seemed to be a reformed man, and came there to render his praises to God, and thanks to his Christian friends, for that which had been done for him."

Similar Societies were organized in other parts of London, while branch Societies began to rise all around them, and in 1698 thirty-two distinct bodies of them were established within the limits of the city. The movement spread to Cambridge, Gloucester and other towns in England; and thence to Ireland, where, under the encouragement of the Archbishop, their success was so marked that in Dublin alone, from beginning with one Society of three or four members, they in a few years increased to nine or ten distinct institutions. The members of these societies, realizing the benefits which they themselves had received, gave all possible assistance to others. "I have known some of them," says Woodward, "who have been at their own liberty come out of the midst of the city, after their shops had been shut up, three or four miles to the outmost parts of the suburbs, to give instruction and encouragement to a newly planted Society; returning again a considerable time after night, in all the inconveniences of the darkness and uncertain weather,

with the cheering thought of having been well employed."

There were, however, some to be found who looked with unfavorable eyes upon this movement; and Dr. Henry Compton, Bishop of London, was warned that these were things "leading to schism, spiritual pride, and many other ill consequences." The young men were called upon to vindicate their cause, which they did to the satisfaction of the worthy Bishop, who said, "God forbid that I should be against such excellent desigs." So faithful were the members in their adherence to their church ordinances, that special public services were instituted in London for their express benefit. By these means they grew in favor with ecclesiastical authorities, and their good report soon reached the Royal Palace, and Queen Anne listened with deep interest to the accounts given her of their devotion.

About the year 1720, there was formed at Oxford an Association of young Students, the members of which at first read divinity on Sunday evenings. The summer following, they began to visit the prisoners in the jails, and the poor in the town. This Association was known by the Students as the *Godly Club*, and among its prominent members were John Wesley, Geo. Whitfield, and others well known in the Christian World. During visits made by members of this Association to London, they became intimately associated with the Young Men's Societies there, especially those meeting in Westminster, Fetter Lane and Aldersgate Street. It was at the latter meeting that John Wesley experienced the power of divine change wrought in his soul by the Holy Ghost; and his journal abundantly proves that he found his earliest and best coadjutors amongst the members of the London Young Men's Societies.

A long interval occurs during which but little is known of these and similar Societies; but it is not to be supposed that during this time the spiritual interests of young men were neglected.

The year 1835 was a memorable one in the history of religious work in London. In that year the London City Mission was formed by Mr. David Nasmith and in the same day in which the Mission was instituted a meeting was held at which was formed a Metropolitan Young Men's Society, which,

while taking but little aggressive action on behalf of young men, served to bring young men more under public notice, and served to keep their dangers and wants before the eye of the church of Christ. We pass on to the year 1842 when Mr. Geo. Williams (founder of the Y. M. C. Associations as at present recognized) went to London as clerk in a large warehouse, in which about 80 young men were employed. He desired their spiritual welfare. He prayed that a way of usefulness might be opened, and his prayer was answered. A few like minded young men were brought together and finally in 1844, (June 6,) a society was formed and the name of Young Men's Christian Association was adopted. The work of the Association was blessed, and in 1846 there were similar Associations planted in several of the towns of England.

In 1851 the wave reached Canada, and at Montreal on the 19th November, 1851, was organized the first Association in America. (A few days later the Boston, Mass. Association was organized, but without any knowledge of the action taken at Montreal.) The Chairman at the first meeting of the Montreal Association was Rev. Mr. Marling well known to many in Toronto.

The first Association in Ontario (then Upper Canada) is that at Ottawa, formed in 1857. The Toronto Association was organized in 1864. The growth and development of the work of this Association has been watched with interest by the Christian public, and its 17th anniversary finds it with a strong hold upon the sympathy of all, and with the most cordial relations existing between it and the pastors and churches of the city. We devoutly thank God for all His goodness, and take upon our lips the closing words of Joshua, admitting that "we know in all our hearts and in all our souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord our God spake concerning us; all are come to pass unto us, and not one thing hath failed thereof." Josh. xxiii, 14.

GOSPEL AND SONG SERVICE

Every Sunday Evening, at 8.30.

Good singing, with Y.M.C.A. Orchestra accompanying.

SHORT GOSPEL ADDRESSES,

COME!



JESUS ONLY.

ONE IDEA MEN.

PEOPLE who work earnestly in any reform are sometimes called one-idea people. The phrase is complimentary; a man with one idea and that a good one is much better than a man with no ideas at all, or with a number of very poor ones. Paul was a "one idea man" who determined to know nothing but Christ and who said: "This one thing I do, . . . I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The world is indebted to men of one idea for its inventions, its discoveries, and its great moral and religious reformations. A boy may scatter powder along a curb-stone and then set fire to it. A flash follows, that is all. The same quantity of powder put into a pistol sends a ball straight to its mark. Many a man lives such a purposeless life, that it amounts to no more than the flash. The same amount of energy concentrated on some one worthy object would be a power for good that would be felt. We like to see men have one true idea or good purpose, and live for it.—*Selected.*

Our Association is *one idea* Association. Our *idea* is that the Young Men of Toronto, should be won for the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SECRETARY'S CONFERENCE.

THE Annual Conference of General Secretaries will meet this year at Cleveland, Ohio. The first session will be held on the evening of May 20th. These gatherings are generally of very practical character, and young Secretaries especially, are much benefitted by attending.

WORKER'S MEETING

FOR

PRAYER AND CONFERENCE

Every Monday, at 8 p.m.

A WORD TO YOUNG MEN.



ONCE or twice we have heard the following remark: "There is no use of my becoming a Member of the Association. I have no time to go to the meetings, and at any rate I don't need the advantages you offer." Now we must say that there appears to be a shade of selfishness in this. The writer of this article has never looked upon a Y. M. C. A. as simply a "Religious Club," where Christian Young Men could congregate to read, talk, &c. It is quite true that we desire to have such gatherings, but the work of the Association does not stop at this. Our Association is a Body of Christian Young Men united to help their fellow Young Men. Now if you do not need the advantages offered by the Association there are many who do. Do you subscribe to an Orphan Asylum or an Hospital expecting to be benefitted personally by these institutions? No! you subscribe and throw in your hearty sympathy because you are convinced that many poor fellow creatures need such help as these places afford.

Again we claim that every member receives *more* than full value for the fee paid. Especially will this be the case during the ensuing year, when we purpose (D. V.) making arrangements by which members will be entitled to Free admission for self to a course of 7 Lectures, and free admission for self and a friend to a second course of 7 Lectures (in other words 21 tickets for which non-members will have to pay 25c. each or \$5.25) added to this will be the privilege of attending Classes in Book-keeping, Phonography, Commercial Arithmetic, Elocution, Drawing, (Free Hand, Architectural and Mechanical) and probably classes in Languages. These advantages with a Library of 2,000 volumes, a Reading parlor, handsomely furnished and supplied with over 75 papers and periodicals and the use of a well equipped Gymnasium must certainly be accepted as a very profitable return for the investment of \$2. We write this article without emphasizing the nobler and more Christ like aspects of the work which are dealt with in other parts of the Bulletin. Young Men consider whether it may not be advisable for you to "become a member."

BIBLE CLASSES.



VICE-CHANCELLOR BLAKE'S Bible Class for Teachers continues to be very largely attended.

As stated in another column, Mr. Briggs' Sunday afternoon Class is increasing in attendance. The General Secretary's Bible Class held every Thursday evening has been a time of feeding upon the Word. To any or all these classes we invite Young Men.

YOUNG MEN'S MEETING.



REMEMBER that every Saturday evening at 8 we hold a Social Religious Meeting for Young Men only. We should like to see a large attendance. We are praying for this, and we expect to see it. Young man shall we welcome you as one sent in answer to that prayer?

RAILWAY WORK.

Mr. Burford, our energetic Railway Secretary, and Mr. Gartshore, president of the Eglinton Association (and a member of the Executive Committee,) paid a visit last week to Whitby, at the request of Mr. Holden, Man. Director of the Whitby & Port Perry R.R. A conference was held at Mr. Holden's residence, and was largely attended by Railway men, and by the ministers of Whitby.

Mr. Burtord, with words warm from a heart full of the work, gave a brief account of the history of the work, what had been done and what yet should be accomplished. Mr. Gartshore, spoke specially of the mode of organization; and the ministers of the town warmly stated their interests in the work, and readiness to co-operate in whatever should be undertaken. A meeting held in the waiting room of the W. P. P. & L. R. R. station, Sunday at 4 p.m., addressed by Mr. Burford and others, was largely attended.

There is every likelihood of an active railway association being formed, the men stating their willingness to engage in the work. And it is not unlikely that the visit will also result in the revival of the old Whitby Y.M.C.A.

"Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is JESUS CHRIST."—I Cor. iii. 11.

TWO HUNDRED and twenty-five new members have been added since the year began.

OUR GENERAL WORK.



MANY friends of the Association are entirely unacquainted with the extent to which we are called upon by parents in other lands to search out, care for, or advise with wandering sons. Not a week passes without such appeals being made, and we are thankful to say that in almost every instance the Lord has blessed and helped us to render the desired assistance. The amount of correspondence entailed by these enquiries is necessarily large. In one instance the search for a missing young man led to over 25 letters being written. It is our rule never (wilfully) to allow a letter of enquiry to remain unanswered. We bear in mind that many (to us) apparently unreasonable or foolish requests, were not designed to be so, and when a young lad just from a country school writes to ask us to secure him a position as bookkeeper in our city, we know he anxiously waits an answer, and fondly hopes that it may be favourable, therefore we reply in terms which are calculated to soften his disappointment at the failure of his cherished desire.

It has been our privilege in several instances to find out runaway sons and return them to their parents. Some of these cases have been deeply interesting, and the hand of the Lord has been clearly visible, leading us in every step towards the consummation of our own and the parents desire for the prodigal's return.

We have on file, letter from wives, fathers, mothers and friends expressing heartfelt gratitude for services rendered by the Association,

TRACT WORK.

TWENTY young men spend each Sabbath morning in visiting the vessels in the Harbor, distributing Tracts, Gospels, and the special edition of THE BULLETIN (no advertisements). The Harbor is divided into seven districts. The Fire Halls are also regularly visited.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

This most important Committee is doing good service. The workers, as a general rule, are very faithful, not only in attendance, but in observing the custom of closing the Reading Room each evening with "family worship."

SUNDAY MEETINGS.

LAST Sunday was a season of much blessing in our meetings. The attendance at Mr. Briggs' Bible Class, held at 3 p.m., was larger than usual, and deep spiritual interest was manifested. The Gospel Meeting in the evening was largely attended. The utmost order prevailed. The singing, accompanied by our orchestra, attracted many to the meeting, and the address given by Rev. Geo. Cochran was accompanied by the power of the Spirit, as evidenced in the fact that at the close five persons testified their desire to know Him whom to know is life everlasting. To God be all the praise.

AN APPEAL

Oh! friendless young man. Oh! prodigal young man, broken-hearted young man, discouraged young man, wounded young man, I commend you to Christ this day, the best friend a man ever had. He meets you this moment. You feel your need of his blessing. Despire not that emotion rising in your soul; it is divinely lifted. Look into the face of Christ. Lift one prayer to your father's God, to your mother's God, and this moment get the pardoning blessing. Now, while I speak, you are at the forks of the road, and this is the right road and that is the wrong road. Oh start on the right road—*Tal-madge*.

REMEMBER

THE

EVANGELISTIC BIBLE CLASS,

Held every Sunday afternoon,

AT 8 O'CLOCK, FOR ONE HOUR.

COME!

GOOD ADVICE.

THE opening paragraph in the last number of that excellent Y. M. C. A. paper, *The Watchman*, commences with these words: "If you see anything wrong about the Association, don't run round and complain about it. Set to work and try to rectify it." This we call sensible. We are happy to say that in Toronto we are not much afflicted with chronic grumblers among our membership. But we have met with some *outside* the membership who find fault. Now these friends should remember that our desire is to so carry on our work that as little offence as possible be given, and we shall ever be thankful for any suggestion regarding the better conduct of that work. We know that a person watching a game of chess, or checkers, can often see that a certain move would win the game, whereas the player is so absorbed that he may fail to make that move, and thus lose the game. It is, however, contrary to all rule to prompt a player; but remember that no such rule obtains in Christian work. If you see how we can better do our work, or more readily reach young men, speak out; and we will thankfully receive your words, but please don't find fault. It will not help us, it will not help us, it will not help us, it will not help the cause of God.

COME

TO THE

BIBLE CLASS,

CONDUCTED BY THE

GENERAL SECRETARY,

Every Thursday,

At 8 p.m.

**"He that hath the Son
hath life; and he that
hath not the Son of God
hath not life."**

1 John v. 12.

MEN OF THE FUTURE.

THOSE who are the great men of our country, our ministers, statesmen, lawyers, physicians, all of those who now fill positions of honor and trust in the land must soon pass away; they cannot forever remain with us, and the question arises, who are to fill their places when they are gone? The answer comes, the young men of our land. Can there then be too much done toward fitting these young men, to creditably fill these positions? Should not every association that is striving to lead them to a true knowledge of their duty in this life, and also to teach them what preparation is necessary for their eternal life, have the support of all Christian people.—*Lexington Y.M.C.A. Association.*

Bulletin for Week Commencing May 15th, 1881.

SUNDAY	....	May 15	....	9.30 A.M.	WORKER'S MEETING FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY.
				3.00 P.M.	EVANGELISTIC BIBLE CLASS. S. R. Briggs
				8.30 P.M.	GOSPEL & SONG SERVICE. W. P. Crombie & W. E. Burford.
MONDAY	.....	" 16	....	12.00 M.	THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE MEETING. Prayer of Faith for Healing. Matt. xvii. 14-21. Rev. J. B. Avison.
				8.00 P.M.	WORKERS' MEETING FOR PRAYER.
TUESDAY	....	" 17	...	12.00 M.	NOONDAY PRAYER. Nothing in me hidden from God. Ps. cxxxix. Rev. J. Salmon, B. D.
WEDNESDAY	..	" 18	....	12.00 M.	NOONDAY PRAYER. A double-minded man. Jas. i. 1-15. Rev. A. F. Macgregor, B. A.
THURSDAY	.....	" 19	....	12.00 M.	NOONDAY PRAYER. Holiness required in believers. 2 Tim. ii. 19-2C. Rev. R. W. E. Greene, M. A.
				8.00 P.M.	WORKER'S BIBLE CLASS. Obedience. John ii. 1-11. Conducted by the Sec'y.
FRIDAY	....	" 20	....	12.00 M.	NOONDAY PRAYER. A changed man. Acts vii. 58; ix. 1, 2; xv. 35, 36. W. Anderson.
				8.00 P.M.	BOYS' MEETING. Charles Edwards.
SATURDAY	.....	" 21	....	12.00 M.	NOONDAY PRAYER. A command and a promise. Luke xi. 9. S. R. Briggs.
				4.50 P.M.	TEACHERS' BIBLE CLASS. Hon. S. H. Blake
				8.00 P.M.	YOUNG MEN'S MEETING. The Blood of Christ. Heb. ix. H. B. Gadon.

Requests for prayer may be addressed to the Secretary.

RAILROAD MEETINGS.

SUNDAY, May 15, 3.00 P.M.—At Union Station.—Mr. W. ANDERSON and ALF. SANDHAM.
At Nipissing Station.—Messrs. W. E. BURFORD, and J. S. POWELL.

COTTAGE MEETINGS are also held every THURSDAY 8 P.M.—11 High Street.
NOON PRAYER MEETING—Toronto, Grey and Bruce R. R. Workshops every WEDNESDAY at 12.30.

SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
SHAFTESBURY HALL,
Thursday, May the 12th, 1881.

HON. VICE-CHANCELLOR BLAKE, Chairman.

→* **PROGRAMME.** *←

Hymn.

All hail the power of Jes s' name,
Let knees prostrate fall:
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.

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

READING SCRIPTURE.....REV. H. D. POWIS.
PRAYER.....REV. DR. CASTLE

Chairman's Address.

HYMN 'One more year's work for Jesus.'.....RAILWAY CHOIR, and Y. M. C. A. ORCHESTRA.
ADDRESS.....Y. M. C. Associations—the Outcome of the Church.
Rev Principal Grant, D.D., of Queen's College Kingston.

Hymn.

With harps and with viols there stands a great
throng
In the presence of Jesus and sing this new
song:
Unto Him who hath loved us and washed us
from sin,
Unto Him be the glory for ever. Amen.

All these once were sinners defiled in His sight,
Now arrayed in pure garments in praise they
unite:

How helpless and hopeless we sinners had been,
If He never had loved us till cleansed from our
sin.

Aloud in His praises our voices shall ring,
So that others, believing this new song shall sing.

FIVE MINUTE ADDRESSES ON ASSOCIATION WORK.

JOHN MACDONALD, Esq., Finance. W. E. BURFORD, Railway Work. W. N. MCFARLANE, Tract
and Bay Work; C. EDWARDS, Boys' Work.

COLLECTION.

Hymn (during collection).—"Where are the Reapers.".....RAILWAY CHOR, & Y.M.C.A. ORCHESTRA.
Address.....Aggressive Work.
Rev. Dr. Petts, Metropolitan (Methodist) Church.

DOXOLOGY

AND

BENEDICTION.