

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
Young Men's Christian Associations
OF THE
UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES,
HELD AT
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, JUNE 1-5, 1864.
WITH
An Abstract of the Minutes of the Eighty Annual Convention.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
1864.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
Young Men's Christian Associations

OF THE
UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES,

HELD AT

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, JUNE 1-5, 1864.

WITH

An Abstract of the Minutes of the Eighth Annual Convention.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
1864.

PRINTED BY
GEO. C. RAND & AVERY,
No. 3 CORNHILL, BOSTON.

PREFACE.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF
THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
TREMONT TEMPLE, BOSTON, MASS., AUGUST, 1864.

IN compliance with an order of the Ninth Annual Convention, passed on the fourth of June, the Executive Committee have prepared the report of the proceedings, contained in the following pages.

The Committee are happy to acknowledge their indebtedness for valuable assistance to O. Vincent Coffin, one of the Secretaries of the Convention, whose full and carefully prepared records have very greatly diminished their labors.

The minutes of the Chicago Convention, when placed in their hands, were not so complete as the Committee expected to find them, but, with the aid of the newspaper reports, an account has been made which, it is hoped, may present, with sufficient accuracy, the record of that Convention.

The delay in the appearance of this volume, quite unexpected and unavoidable on the part of the Committee, has principally arisen from the impossibility of procuring the necessary manuscripts at an earlier period.

With these prefatory remarks, the careful and prayerful perusal of these pages is commended to all who love our Lord, and who subscribe to the motto—

“CHEERFUL, UNWEARIED SELF-SACRIFICE.”

In behalf of the Executive Committee,

EDWARD G. TILESTON,

Corresponding Secretary.

CONTENTS.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

	PAGE
Temporary organization	9
Officers of the Convention.....	9
Standing Committees	10
Reports from Associations	10
Letter from Brig. Gen. C. B. Fisk.....	11
Resolutions on the State of the Country	11
Meeting in aid of the U. S. Christian Commission	12
Resolutions on the work of the Associations	12
Resolutions in favor of the Christian Commission	13
Executive Committee	13
Dinner at the Sherman House	14
Resolutions	15
Farewell services	16

NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Invitation by the Boston Association	17
Proceedings of Committee of Arrangements.....	17
The Call for the Convention.....	17
Circular of the Committee of Arrangements.....	18

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION.

Temporary organization	21
Devotional services	21
Address by Acting President Pond	22
Committees.....	23
List of Delegates.....	25
Rules of the Convention	26
Invitations	28
Officers of the Convention.....	29

	PAGE
WELCOME FESTIVAL.	
Decoration of the Music Hall	30
Position of the Company	30
Performance on the Great Organ	31
Address of Welcome by Mr. Tileston	31
Address of Welcome by Rev. Dr. Kirk	32
Responsive Address by President Pond	34
Responsive Address by Mr. Stuart	35
Hymn	36
Announcement of arrangements	36
Visit of the Russian Naval Officers	37
Songs	38
Address by Rev. Mr. Willits	38
Replies to Invitations	38
Address by Rev. Dr. Evarts	39
BUSINESS SESSIONS.	
Devotional services	42
Inquiry upon Initiations	42
Committee on the State of the Country	42
Standing Committees	42
Resolutions on Temperance	43
Committee on Religious International Relations	43
Reports of Associations :	
Montreal, C. E.	44
Toronto, C. W.	46
London, C. W.	47
Boston, Mass.	48
Salem, Mass.	50
Providence, R. I.	51
Bristol, R. I.	51
Newport, R. I.	51
Danbury, Conn.	52
Brooklyn, N. Y.	53
Elmira, N. Y.	54
New York, N. Y.	55
Oswego, N. Y.	57
Rochester, N. Y.	57
Washington, D. C.	58
Chicago, Ill.	59
New Orleans, La.	62
Memphis, Tenn.	63
Report of Committees of Arrangements	63
Report of Committee on Devotional Exercises	63
Report of Committee on Business	64
Communication from Doncaster, England, Association	64
Report of Associations, continued	64
Report of Committee on Associations	65
Letter from Rev. Mr. Farnham	65
Order on Reports from Associations	66
Resolution appointing a Visiting Officer	66

CONTENTS.

7

	PAGE
Committee on Railway Literature	66
Resolutions on the State of the Country	66
Essay by Rev. Mr. Potter	67
MEETING IN OLD SOUTH CHURCH.	
Address by Rev. Mr. Manning	73
Address by Mr. Brainard	76
Address by Rev. Mr. Potter	80
Address by Rev. Mr. Alexander	81
Address by Rev. Mr. Parvin	82
Address by Rev. Mr. Lyford	82
Address by Secretary Coffin	83
Devotional services	83
HARBOR EXCURSION.	
Salute to the Russian squadron	84
Salute to the School-ship	84
Visit to Fort Independence	84
Visit to Thompson's Island	85
Places of interest	86
Visit to Deer Island :	
Reception	86
Collation	86
Address by Alderman Norcross	87
Response by President Pond	87
Address by Mr. Stuart	88
Photograph	88
BUSINESS SESSION.	
Report of Committee of Arrangements	89
Report of Committee on Business	90
Report of Committee on International Affairs	91
Delegate to European Associations	92
Resolution of Thanks	93
Resolution in support of U. S. Christian Commission	93
Essay by Mr. Abbott	94
CHRISTIAN COMMISSION MEETING.	
Remarks of President Pond	98
Letter from Governor Andrew	98
Address of Mr. Stuart	99
Address of Rev. Mr. Lyford	103
Address of Rev. Dr. Kirk	103
VISIT TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.	
Visit to the Everett School	104
Visit to the Dwight School	104
BUSINESS SESSION.	
Reports of Committees	105
Essay by Rev. Mr. Faunce	108
Reports of Committees:	113
VISIT TO INSTITUTIONS.	
Visit to the Public Library	114
Visit to Society of Natural History	114

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING.	PAGE
The Choir.....	115
Remarks of President Pond	115
Remarks of Mr. Williams	116
Hymns	116
Address by Rev. Dr. Lincoln	117
Song.....	118
Address by Vice President Stebbins.....	118
Dirge	118
Address by Mr. Reid.....	118
Address by Dea. King	119
BUSINESS SESSION.	
Resolution on Amusements	121
Resolution to secure Statistics.....	121
Order on printing the Proceedings.....	122
Subscription for copies	122
Place for holding next Convention.....	122
Time for holding the Convention.....	123
Location of Executive Committee	123
Appointment of Executive Committee.....	123
Resolution for Prayer	124
Resolution of Thanks.....	125
Devotional Exercises	125
FAREWELL SERVICES.	
Resolutions of Thanks.....	126
Address by Vice President Stebbins.....	127
Address by Mr. Simons	128
Address by Dr. Conkling.....	128
Address by Rev. Dr. Hague	130
Address by Mr. Tileston	130
Address by Rev. Mr. Irwin	132
Address by Mr. Reid.....	133
Address by Rev. Dr. Evarts	133
Address by Major Sturgis	133
Farewell Address of the President.....	134

APPENDIX.

Visit to Warren's Museum	137
Visit to Harvard University	137
Visit to Mount Auburn	138
Invitation to visit the State Prison.....	138
Call for the Chicago Convention	139
Executive Committee	140
Watch Notes	141

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

THURSDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met in the Clark Street M. E. Church, Chicago, Illinois, at 10 A. M., on Thursday, June 4, 1863.

The Convention was called to order by B. F. Jacobs, President of Chicago Association. Isaac S. Smyth, of St. Louis, was chosen temporary Chairman; and O. Vincent Coffin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., Secretary.

Dr. O. F. Presbrey, of Buffalo, N. Y.; Rev. W. C. Cattell, of Harrisburg, Pa.; and A. G. Tyng, of Peoria, Ill., were appointed a Committee on Credentials.

The call for the Convention, issued by the Central Committee, appointed at New Orleans, was then read.

A discussion took place upon the relation of the present Convention to the "Confederation of Associations." It appears that the last session of that body was held in New Orleans, in 1860, when it was voted to hold the next Convention at St. Louis. At the time appointed, however, several of the States of the Union, which included a considerable number of the members of the Confederation, were in rebellion against the government. St. Louis was so seriously menaced as to render it unsafe to hold the Convention, and the meeting had been postponed three years. The civil war having broken up the old Confederation, it was thought proper, by the Central Committee, to reorganize upon a new basis, by inviting *all* the Associations of the loyal States and British Provinces to send delegates to this Convention.

The Convention, by a test vote, upon a motion offered by N. A. Halbert, of Buffalo, refused to recognize the qualifications for membership established by the Confederation.

The Committee on Credentials reported a list of the delegates in attendance, and it was voted that all persons reported by the committee as having credentials, be enrolled as members of the Convention.

A committee of one from each State and Province represented, was appointed to nominate permanent officers, and they reported the following:—

For President, George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, Pa.

For Vice-Presidents, Joseph A. Pond, Boston, Mass.; H. Thane Miller, Cincinnati, O.; Thomas Leeming, Montreal, C. E.; F. A. Sheldon, Troy, N. Y.; Isaac S. Smyth, St. Louis, Missouri.

For Secretaries, Chas. A. Holmes, Troy, N. Y.; Rev. T. M. Eddy, D. D., Chicago, Ill.; Rev. W. H. De Pay, Buffalo, N. Y.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Joseph A. Pond, 1st Vice-President, took the chair, and the hymn "Blow ye the trumpet," was sung.

The Acting President then briefly addressed the Convention, thanking them for the honor conferred upon him in assigning him a high place upon the list of officers, and by the result of circumstances, the still higher honor of presiding until the arrival of the esteemed brother selected to preside over the Convention.

Rev. G. L. Wrenn, of Chicago, led in prayer, and one verse of the hymn, "The morning light is breaking," was sung.

A telegram from St. Louis was received in the afternoon, which ran as follows:—

"Say to the Convention the Western Army Committee regret they cannot be present—no meeting of such infinite importance. May God add his blessing to the deliberations, that wise measures may be devised for increased advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom through the land. Remember the army and navy. May every heart catch adequate impulse for home fields. Say to every delegate, the love of Christ unfold, spread it from East to West, from North to South, till all his cross beholding, in Him are fully blessed.

"E. D. JONES, Chairman."

A Committee on Rules was appointed, and the Rev. Robert L. Collier read the report, which was adopted.

The Committee on Credentials reported, granting seats to those who were without credentials, as corresponding members. The report was adopted.

The Chair announced the Standing Committees, as follows:—

Committee on Business.—B. F. Jacobs, Chicago, Ill.; T. S. Pycott, Boston, Mass.; G. A. Hull, Louisville, Ky.; T. J. Claxton, Montreal, C. E.; F. A. Sheldon, Troy, N. Y.; J. B. Sheppard, Philadelphia, Penn.; K. A. Burnell, St. Louis, Mo.

Committee on Associations.—H. T. Miller, Cincinnati, Ohio; N. A. Halbert, Buffalo, N. Y.; A. A. Kendrick, Chicago, Ill.; J. P. Safford, D. D., New Albany, Ind.; W. B. Davis, Ohio; W. H. Newett, Liverpool, Eng.; S. G. Bowdlear, Boston, Mass.

Committee on Public and Devotional Services.—G. C. Baldwin, D. D., Troy, N. Y.; J. A. Coleman, Providence, R. I.; C. Bentley, J. V. Farwell, Chicago, Ill.; W. A. Kyle, Me.; S. P. Kelly, Trenton, N. J.; R. T. Bardwell, Troy, N. Y.

Communications from the Army Committees of various Christian Associations, scattered over the States, were read, exhorting to perseverance in the good work of converting souls to Christ; and setting forth cheering examples of what these committees had done in their several departments. The report from Philadelphia stated that fourteen thousand Soldiers' Hymn Books, thirteen thousand Tract Society Hymn Books, large numbers of newspapers, magazines, and about thirteen hundred dollars, collected in very small sums from poor and benevolent persons, had been distributed among the soldiers in Pennsylvania.

A committee to consider the state of the country was then appointed, as follows:—Rev. R. L. Collier, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. H. C. Potter, Troy, N. Y.; George Cookman, Philadelphia, Penn.; C. S. Butler, Boston, Mass.; S. Hutchins, Providence, R. I.

A communication from the Central Committee, appointed by the last Convention, was read by the Chair, and appropriately referred.

Rev. N. D. Williamson, of Chicago, Ill., offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the daily prayer-meetings, connected with the Christian Associations here represented, be requested to observe the usual hour of prayer on July 4, 1863, as a season of special prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all the brave defenders of our country, in the army and navy.

Rev. R. B. Claxton, D. D., of Rochester, N. Y., offered the following:—

Resolved, That this Convention recognizes the importance and desirableness of an intimate coöperation between the Young Men's Christian Associations of our country and the United States Christian Commission; and that the Business Committee of this Convention be requested to present for our consideration such plans and measures as they may deem advisable to maintain and increase the coöperation between the two organizations.

EVENING SESSION.

The meeting was called to order at 7.40 P. M., and was opened by singing "From Greenland's icy mountains," after which prayer was offered by Rev. W. H. De Puy, of Buffalo, New York.

Rev. Charles E. Cheney, Rector of Christ's Church, Chicago, then delivered an elegant address of welcome to the delegates.

A responsive address was made by the Acting President, Mr. Pond, after which the hymn "Nearer my God to thee," was sung.

Responses were made by Rev. J. C. Thomas, of the Army of the Cumberland; Rev. W. C. Cattell, of Harrisburg, Penn.; Messrs. K. A. Burnell, of St. Louis, Mo.; S. P. Kelly, of Trenton, New Jersey; S. W. Stebbins, of New York City; M. S. Converse, of Elmira, N. Y.; and J. F. Almy, of Salem, Mass.

FRIDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Vice-President Isaac S. Smyth, of St. Louis, in the chair.

Voted, That the evangelical clergymen of Chicago be invited to participate in the deliberations of the Convention.

Reports were then received from the various Associations, as follows:—

BOSTON, MASS.—M. W. Pond reported that over five hundred of their members had enlisted in the army; and that the Army Committee had raised, during the past year, \$17,000, and had sent one thousand cases of goods to the army.

J. R. Dougall, of Montreal, reported that their organization was effected prior to that of Boston, and that the work being done by them was very satisfactory.

A report was made from Philadelphia, by J. Parker, as to the work done in the hospitals by the Association of Philadelphia.

The next report was made by G. L. Robertson, of Troy, followed by E. N. Dauchy, each of whom stated some facts relative to the work of the Troy Association.

F. W. Holbrook, of Albany, claimed a right to follow the Troy report, as their Society was the child of the Troy Association.

S. P. Kelly, of Trenton, N. J., said that the Trenton Association was not doing what it ought to do; and that two of the objects which were not properly attended to, were the Mission work and the Sabbath-school work. He also reported the work his Association were actually doing.

K. A. Burnell made a report from the Association of St. Louis, including in it a short report from the St. Louis Army Committee.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Vice-President H. Thane Miller, of Cincinnati, in the chair.

The following communication was read, and ordered to be inserted in the Minutes.

HEAD-QUARTERS, POST OF HELENA, ARK.,
HELENA, May 29, 1863.

I have possessed my soul in patience these many days, hoping that matters, both peaceful and belligerent, would be so ordered as to permit me to join with yourself and other friends in the National Christian Union, which convenes in your city on the 4th proximo. I assure you that no newly-bought piece of ground, neither five yoke of unproved oxen, nor the *very best of wives* could lead me to pray you to excuse me, or cause me to say "I cannot come."

The great struggle for the repossession, under the "Flag of Our Union," of every foot of soil washed by the Mississippi in its winding pilgrimage through the imperial valley to the Gulf, is not yet ended; and until it *shall be*, and that, too, in an entire and complete victory over the traitor-horde, by the soldiery of the loyal Northwest, "Every man at his post" should be the watchword. I must, therefore, forego the anticipated pleasure of striking glad hands of fellowship with my Christian brothers, who, with warm hearts and most worthy purpose, will gather to your National Love Feast. May the Lord of hosts be with you. In most earnest prayer, I entreat you remember the soldier,

"In camp and march, in siege and fight."

With kindly greetings to the delegates, I remain, in Christian bonds,
Faithfully, your brother,

CLINTON B. FISK,
Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers.

Rev. R. L. Collier, from the Committee on the State of the Country, presented the following preamble and resolutions, which, on motion of Mr. Farwell, were adopted without debate:—

We are the citizens of the noblest government that was ever instituted to secure to men their property, rights, and lives. It has had its origin in the broad idea of Christian republicanism, and its unparalleled growth in its practical development. Patriotism in any man of any clime is a virtue always admirable; its *absence* in any American citizen indicates an utter lack of every noble element of the manly character, and presents us with a type of treason unapproached in the history of nations. Human depravity and vice—scarcely to be accounted for, save as the out-growth of American negro slavery—have plotted and inaugurated a rebellion for the overthrow of these proud institutions and practical liberties. That no rightful cause does now, or ever has, existed for such conduct, is patent to every honest judgment. It is solely the result of disappointed political ambition, and the deliberate purpose to keep in bonds a race of men made in the image of God, and redeemed by the death of His Son, for all coming centuries, in a *restricted* territory, where its people are born to the mistaken opinion that slavery is a divine institution, and where the probabilities of the dissemination of "the truth as it is in Jesus" would be greatly lessened by separating such States from the free North, with its free schools, free press, free pulpits, and free men.

The history of Providence through all the conduct of this war is one of the profoundest meditations of philosophy, and in view of that history it is a matter of instructive interest to observe that that part of our country where man has received God's basis of government as set forth in the declaration of American Independence as a *fact* and not as a fiction, has developed resources of which we were hitherto unknowing—waging a war of enormous proportions and at the same time enriching our citizens upon the one hand, and strengthening the cords that bind them to the government upon the other. And more than this, when we turn to consider our spiritual interests, we are cheered by the fact that the churches were never more hopeful, nor the type of Christian consecration and devotion more scriptural and aggressive. When we reflect, nevertheless, that material prosperity is not worthy of consideration in the presence of the sad hearts and homes of our own communities, we should most reverently inquire into the grounds of our failure, thus far, to accomplish the overthrow of this rebellion, and, if in our control, summarily remove them. In view of the reflections herein set forth, we offer the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That we hereby reaffirm our unconditional loyalty to the government of the United States, and our determination to afford every required and Christian aid for the suppression of this infamous rebellion.

Resolved, That we are gratified at the steps already taken by the administration for the removal of the great curse of slavery—the "sum of all villainies," and must express our candid conviction that the war will last so long as its cause morally exists, and that when we, as a nation, do *fully* right, God will not delay to give success to our arms.

Resolved, That this is no time to confound *liberty* with *lawlessness*. We cherish the boon of freedom with jealous vigilance, but remember that *true* freedom can only continue under restraints, and exist at all as guarded by law.

Resolved, That neither is this a time for either doubtful or timid measures. The counsels of time-serving, self-seeking, inconsistent politicians are not to be heeded, but the loud voice of the loyal people, the heroic demands of our volunteers, and the *vigorous* measures of our unselfish and uncompromising generals, are to be respected by those who bear rule over us.

Resolved, That we remember, with honest gratitude, the noble and immense work accomplished by the Young Men's Christian Associations of our land, in the sanitary and spiritual fields opened up by the providence of God for our willing hearts and hands, and

pledge that we will continue to pray for our army and navy, and to meet these wants in the future with greater fidelity, if possible, than in the past.

Resolved, That we recommend the daily prayer-meetings connected with the associations here represented, to observe the usual hour of prayer on Monday following July 4, 1863, as a season of special supplication for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all the brave defenders of our country.

The Doxology was sung, and Rev. Geo. C. Baldwin, D. D., of Troy, offered prayer. It was ordered that an attested copy of the report of the Committee on the State of the Country be forwarded to the President of the United States.

The presentation of reports from the several Associations represented here, was resumed.

A report was presented by B. F. Jacobs, President of the Chicago Association.

On behalf of the Association at Chicago, Mr. Jacobs extended to the Convention the following invitations:—

1. To take a ride on the Lake at 2 P. M. to-morrow.
2. That those who do not desire to take the ride, accompany a Committee of the Chicago Association, at the same hour, on a visit to the largest grain elevator in the world.
3. That the Convention dine to-morrow, at 4 P. M., at the Sherman House.

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of the Convention are hereby tendered to the Chicago Association for their generous invitations.

2. That we will adjourn to-morrow, in time to permit the members of the Convention to accept those invitations thus kindly preferred.

S. W. Stebbins, of New York, presented the report from the N. Y. City Association.

The Chairman here announced the arrival of the President, George H. Stuart, Esq., of Philadelphia, and appointed Messrs. Smyth, of Missouri, and Jacobs, of Illinois, to conduct the President to the chair.

As the President approached the chair, he was most cordially welcomed by the retiring Chairman, whereupon the Convention rose and sang the hymn commencing—

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love."

President Stuart, on taking the chair, expressed his gratification on meeting the Convention, though having scarcely health sufficient to be present.

Dr. Presbey, of Buffalo, presented a report of the doings of his Association.

The report of the Peoria, Ill., Association, was presented by Mr. Headley, of that city.

J. A. Coleman, of Rhode Island, presented the report of the Providence Association.

An invitation from the State Sabbath School Association of Wisconsin to attend a Sabbath School Convention, to be held at Madison on Tuesday next, was presented.

The thanks of the Convention were returned for the above invitation.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention met in Bryan Hall, to hear reports of the work of the Christian Commission.

At an early hour the vast hall, capable of seating two thousand five hundred persons, was crowded to its utmost capacity, many being unable to obtain admittance.

Vice-President Pond occupied the chair, the President being unable, from ill health, to preside.

The hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," was sung.

Prayer was offered by Dr. R. Patterson, after which the President, Geo. H. Stuart, addressed the meeting, referring to the work which had been commenced in New York in 1861, where twelve men formed the Christian Commission for the purpose of supplying the wants of the soldiers. He then spoke of the Association of Philadelphia, and what it had accomplished. Six hundred delegates had been sent by the Commission to supply the wants of the soldiers, of whom one hundred are now in the field. They had sent 388,952 volumes of the Bible to the soldiers, besides numerous other Christian works and pamphlets.

The railroads and express companies had rendered the Commission valuable services in carrying packages free. He dwelt upon the great importance of furnishing the soldiers with spiritual aid. The cry that comes from our armies calls for the active work of every Christian in the land.

Mr. Stuart was followed by the Rev. Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. C. P. Lyford, of Washington, Lieut. D. W. Whittle, and K. A. Burnell. A collection was taken up for the Christian Commission, amounting to five hundred dollars. The vast audience united in singing "My country, 'tis of thee," and were dismissed with the benediction by Bishop Simpson, at 11 o'clock.

The greatest enthusiasm prevailed during the entire meeting.

SATURDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Vice-President Pond in the chair. Rev. H. C. Potter, of Troy, N. Y., offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the interests and welfare of young men in our cities demand now, as heretofore, the steadfast sympathies and efforts of the Christian Associations of our coun-

try, and that it behooves us, as members of this Convention, interested in the well-being of society and the salvation of souls, to see to it that the special duties and anxieties of the hour do not draw away our friends from the work which is to be done at home.

Resolved, That the various means by which Christian Associations can gain a hold upon young men, and preserve them from unhealthy companionship and the deteriorating influences of our large cities, ought to engage our most earnest and prayerful consideration.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to consider the questions — How far our Christian Associations may be made the means of welcoming young men to our cities, and securing for them the sheltering influences of Christian homes and refinement and elevating social relations; — how far our Associations may be made the means of furnishing wholesome relaxation and recreation to young men; — and finally whether they ought not to be, more than they are, the instrument of rescuing young men from lives of dissipation and irreligion, and engaging them in the service of the Church, and as brethren in the cause of our common Master.

The following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to consider and report upon the resolutions above named, which were assigned for consideration at the evening session: —

Messrs. Potter, of N. Y.; Pycott, of Mass.; Wood, of Ill.; Claxton, of Canada East; and Baldwin of N. Y.

The question, "What is your Association doing for the young men in your city or town?" being next in order, verbal reports of an interesting nature were made by O. Vincent Coffin, President of the Brooklyn Association; W. H. Newett, of Liverpool; T. H. Messinger, of Brooklyn, S. P. Kelley, of Trenton; L. P. Rowland, Jr., of Boston; W. Balantyne, of Washington, D. C.; M. S. Converse, of Elmira, N. Y.; and K. A. Burnell, of St. Louis.

The question, "What are Associations doing for the soldiers in the war?" was then discussed.

Mr. Joseph Parker, delegate from the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, stated to the Convention that he had been visiting the soldiers when they were sick and in health, administering consolation or admonishment, as the necessity of the cases required. There were twenty-four hospitals in Philadelphia, and he had attended to the spiritual and temporal wants of as many soldiers there as his strength would permit; and had furnished the families of soldiers who had gone to the war with information respecting them, and had rendered all other humane services within his power, and consistently with his duties.

The Committee on Associations reported the following resolutions, which were adopted: —

Resolved, That in view of the great importance of the labors of the United States Christian Commission, every Association in the loyal States is urgently requested to take upon itself hearty coöperation with said Commission, as an auxiliary society.

Resolved, That the Associations are requested to urge pastors of cities and towns to go as voluntary chaplains for two months each, under the direction of the Christian Commission.

An Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of five members from Philadelphia, and one from each State, as follows: —

PHILADELPHIA — George H. Stuart, James Grant, J. B. Sheppard, John Weist, George Cookman. MAINE — Alexander Tyler, Portland. VERMONT — Frank White, Bennington. MASSACHUSETTS — William H. Lincoln, Boston. CONNECTICUT — Theodore Fowler, Danbury. RHODE ISLAND — Amos C. Barstow. NEW YORK — O. Vincent Coffin, Brooklyn. NEW JERSEY — Timothy Abbott, Trenton. OHIO — H. Thane Miller, Cincinnati. ILLINOIS — Cyrus Bentley, Chicago. MISSOURI — Ed. D. Jones, St. Louis. IOWA — William Mills, Dubuque. KENTUCKY — Joseph Ed. Hardy. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — William J. Rhees, Washington. CANADA — J. Redpath Dougall. MARYLAND — J. Dean Smith. MICHIGAN — S. Farmer, Detroit.

A resolution was proposed recommending Associations to use their influence to send a Chaplain to every regiment in the army; and it was moved, as an addition to the resolution, that a correspondence be instituted between Associations and the Chaplains already at work in the army. Passed.

J. Redpath Dougall, of Montreal, moved the following resolution, which was supported by Mr. Newett, of Liverpool: —

Whereas, National ill-will between nations, as between individuals, must be highly displeasing to our heavenly Father, and

Whereas, It seems to be the policy of the evil one to raise up, at times, heart-burnings and jealousies between the United States and Great Britain, through the instrumentality of selfish men; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Convention considers it the duty of Christians, of both nations, as well as their high commission as ambassadors of the God of Peace, to use all influence put into their hands to discourage, as much as in them lies, all great inharmonious feelings, and promote in every way Christian love and fellowship between the two great Christian countries of the world.

The resolution was received with loud applause, and carried by a unanimous vote; after which a jubilee hymn was sung.

Reports of Associations were then resumed.

Mr. Ballantyne, from Washington City, gave a report of the operations of that Association. Their work has been largely in connection with the soldiers, quartermaster's men, etc., not otherwise provided for. They employ an active missionary, whose report for the past five months foots up as follows: —

Testaments distributed, 11,944; papers, 20,332; soldiers' hymn books, 1,883; books and pamphlets, 10,111; pages of tracts distributed, 111,996; held 381 religious services, and travelled 1,344 miles in the prosecution of his work, and has seen 40 souls converted to God. These services have been held among about 65,000 men in the Government service, soldiers, teamsters, mechanics, and laborers.

The meeting places have been in mess-houses, sheds, hospitals, camps, by the wayside, in groves, on transports, in halls of public buildings, in the rooms of the Christian Com-

mission, in tents, in guard-houses and prisons, in barracks, and among thousands of soldiers in the field.

Great, indeed, has been the privilege to labor among this large class of men — some sick, a few dying, many without chaplains and exposed to vice and sin; all far from home, and all toiling and suffering, and nearly all exposing their lives for our country!

O. Vincent Coffin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., said their Association kept employment and boarding-house books, or lists, for the use of young men desiring employment, or those in search of boarding places, in which they would be surrounded by safe and proper influences and companions. He spoke somewhat at length of the efforts of the Brooklyn Association to use the social element as an aid to their work, and said that the "social reunions" — monthly gatherings, where music, short addresses, and sometimes refreshments, are provided — had, in his judgment, proved the most powerful lever for accomplishing their purposes which had yet been introduced. These meetings are very numerous attended by members and others, — ladies, of course, being present, — and it is made the duty of the officers of the Association to seek out and introduce to Christian friends and influences, strangers, who may, by the invitation, seek safe acquaintanceship by being present.

He said the question of amusements had been considered by them. In 1857 an effort was made to provide for the erection of a building, in which should be a gymnasium, bowling alley and chess room, in addition to the library, reading-rooms, etc., of the Association. Just as the subscription had been started and \$10,000 of the \$50,000 had been pledged, the hard times came on, and the scheme was temporarily abandoned. It is, however, the firm determination of our members, at some day to carry out the project.

We now propose commencing, in a smaller way, by the introduction of chess into our conversation rooms.

Army and navy work since 1861 amounts — value of goods and cash together — to something over \$20,000.

Work of the Association during the year 1862, apart from the army work, foots up \$1,835.

At the beginning of 1862 we were in debt nearly \$600, and the treasury held \$19.11; now we are out of debt, and have a handsome working balance in the treasury.

We maintain three Mission Schools, containing, in all, about 400 scholars.

Our library contains 8,300 volumes of books, and adjoining it is the reading-room, which is well supplied with religious and secular, daily and weekly papers, magazines, reviews, etc.

Moses W. Pond proposed that the next Convention be held in Boston, and several delegates were anxious for it to be held in Troy. A good deal of discussion ensued, and it was finally resolved that the Convention should be held in Boston.

AFTERNOON.

The delegates assembled at two o'clock, to visit Flint & Thompson's elevator.

The Convention sat down to an excellent dinner, by invitation of the Chicago Association, at the Sherman House, at five o'clock. A blessing was asked by the Rev. Dr. Humphries, of Chicago. About one hundred and fifty delegates were present, and many ladies.

After dinner, Rev. H. C. Potter, of Troy, returned thanks.

Vice-President Pond then delivered the opening address, — the President desiring to be excused from officiating. He returned the thanks of the Convention to the Chicago Association for the sumptuous entertainment of which they had partaken, and for the generous hospitalities which they had enjoyed during their stay in the city. They would gratefully remember, through their lives, the cordial welcome and kind attentions which they had received. He expressed satisfaction at meeting so many from the different States, and also those from the dominions of Queen Victoria. The ladies were particularly welcomed as fitting coadjutors in our great work. He alluded to the home work of the Associations, and also to that of the Christian Commission, and closed with a sentiment complimentary to the President.

George H. Stuart rose to reply. I am not fit, he said, to make a speech. I am too sick. The disease I am laboring under, makes talking a pain to me. I think the gentlemen who did me the honor to appoint me to the chair, made a mistake. They wanted a sound, well man in that position, not a sick man. I am glad, however, that I came among you. I thought Chicago could not muster a Convention at all, so as to justify the calling of it a Convention. I feared that the war would have stopped all comers; at least to support a cause like this. But I am glad to find that the meeting has been a great success, and that all the Associations are doing the Lord's work well. I hope to meet you all next year. In the mean while, I propose "The Union, and may the hand be cursed which ever attempts to rend it asunder."

B. F. Jacobs, President of the Chicago Association, made an excellent speech, in response to the President's compliment to its doings. He was sorry that he and his friends had not more time to make a better reception for brothers whom they so much loved and honored as fellow-workers in the great cause. He rejoiced that the friends of New England had joined them. And the more so, because nearly all that Chicago was it owed to New England. Chicago itself was built by New England men. He concluded by proposing "Our Guests."

N. A. Halbert, of Buffalo, alluded in a pleasing manner to the previous meetings of the National Convention, and the places at which they were held. He spoke very highly of the Chicago meeting, and thanked the Young Men's Christian Association of the city for the hospitality which they had shown to the members of the Convention. He said that he also should return home refreshed with what he had heard and seen, and with new hopes for the work before him in that city.

Other speeches were made, and the occasion was one long to be remembered.

EVENING SESSION.

The following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be requested to exert themselves to their utmost, during the coming year, to secure the formation of Young Men's Christian Associations in all the cities and towns of the United States and British Provinces, where such do not already exist; and to secure representatives from the same at the next meeting.

Rev. H. C. Potter, of Troy, from the special committee on the resolutions offered by him, submitted a report.

Rev. Mr. Hall, of Chicago, spoke to the subject, relating his own experience on first coming into the city. He considered that it was the duty of Christians to throw open their doors to strangers, for many had entertained angels unawares.

R. G. Pardee, of New York, spoke briefly on the same subject. He thought that many failures were made through not using their personal influence. Young men, of from fifteen to eighteen years old, were generally neglected; they are not petted as children nor respected as men, and they are, as a rule, more sensitive to slights than they were when older. Hence they were too apt to seek relaxation in the grog-shops, where they could be flattered by any one who was treated to a drink from their pocket. No special arrangements were made for their reception in the Sabbath-school, nor could they always be received into the church. Social reunions were of great service in keeping young men and women out of bad company, especially where the solid citizens of the place were invited, and permitted them to make their acquaintance. The ambition of youth was thus excited, and they were led to see that it was possible for them to rise, if they followed out the course set before them.

T. S. Pycott, of Boston, thought the ends of the Association might be gained by securing rooms,—large, attractive, centrally situated, and furnished with reading-matter. These things being furnished to the young men, would attract, and ultimately lead to the Bible-class, the prayer meeting, and joining the church. In Boston, they held a meeting from 9 to 10 o'clock every evening. A well devised plan of systematic visitation was essential to the success of the work; the workmen and workshops must be visited, and the men there pressed into the service of their Master.

Rev. Mr. Wood, of Illinois, said there was a sympathetic vein in the heart of every man; none could get rid of his social nature, and through that he must be reached. It was not necessary to the guarding of our own firesides that we should be exclusive against those who have been equally well guarded at home, but who are in desperate danger from the want of social aid in a great city. So, too, there was need of occupation,—something to be done. The Sabbath-school enterprise was, in this view, equally valuable to the teacher as the scholar, and if the Christian will give his spare time to trying to bring in souls, he will have no leisure for games of chess, or other pastimes usually regarded as innocent.

S. W. Stebbins estimated the plan of single effort as the very best that could be devised. He related one or two instances where the most confirmed sinners had been reclaimed by persistent effort in private conversation with them. He had seen much good done by the circulation of the tract "The Swearer's Prayer." It only cost a quarter of a cent, and should be aimed at every heart.

The report was then accepted, and the resolutions adopted.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be given to the Clark Street M. E. Church for the kindness shown in opening the doors of their church, and affording to the Convention every facility in their power to render it pleasant and successful.

Resolved, That the Young Men's Christian Associations of America, in Convention assembled, deeply regret the absence of the brethren of those States which are now engaged in rebellion against the good and beneficent government of our land.

Resolved, That those brethren of such States, who are prevented by circumstances which they cannot control from meeting with us in this Convention, have our united sympathies and prayers in their behalf, that God may soon remove all barriers to our mutual fellowship and Christian labors of love.

Resolved, That those who were formerly members of our Associations in good standing, but who are now in sympathy with the rebellion in our land, have our prayers that they may be speedily brought to see the fearful evil of their way, and unite with us again in the great objects we aim to secure.

Rev. J. C. Thomas then spoke of the soldiers in the army of the Cumberland. There were fifty thousand men there. Last winter they slept, or, rather, lay there with one blanket, and often could not sleep for the cold. Even now they are destitute, and are suffering for those who remain at home. Eight months ago he joined as Chaplain to the 88th Illinois Regiment. They went on the Bragg chase, and the seventh day came the bloody battle of Perryville. They had even been obliged to leave their Testaments piled up on the ground for whoever would take them. There was a great lack of transportation, and a great irregularity of mail transit. He however procured a quantity of tracts and religious reading, but they wanted newspapers. In that regiment there are seventy-two New York papers taken each week. The soldiers subscribed for this, about three hundred dollars. They have also fifteen copies of each of the four monthly magazines sent each month, and of religious papers, five hundred are sent weekly or monthly. Through the kindness of the publishers, they are sold and sent at less than cost price.

The speaker was here interrupted, that the regular business might be closed.

Rev. Mr. Swasey tendered an invitation to the Convention to attend his church to-morrow evening, for which invitation the Convention returned a vote of thanks, but, owing to prior arrangements, were unable to accept.

The President appointed Messrs. Jacobs, Wrenn, and Farwell, of Chicago, as a publishing committee, to print and distribute the reports of the sessions of the Convention.

The meeting then adjourned, with the benediction by Rev. Prof. L. H. Bugbee.

SUNDAY EVENING.

FAREWELL SERVICES.

The farewell services were held in Bryan Hall, in the presence of a large audience, Vice-President Pond in the chair.

The hymn "There is a fountain filled with blood," was sung.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Pierce, of Chicago.

A discourse was delivered by Rev. William W. Evarts, D.D., of Chicago. Text: Ps. xlviii. 12, 13: "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following."

Rev. George C. Baldwin, D. D., of Troy, offered a resolution of thanks to the people of Chicago.

Addresses were made by Dr. Baldwin; Rev. J. M. Seeley, of Pitcher, N. Y.; Rev. Mr. Wood, of Chicago; Joseph Parker, of Philadelphia; Rev. Mr. Thomas, of the Army of the Cumberland; O. Vincent Coffin, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. D. Reid, of Utica, N. Y.; and William Bowman, of London, C. W.

Rev. R. L. Collier responded for the Chicago Association.

The President, George H. Stuart, having come in during the exercises, delivered the farewell address, thanking the Convention for the honor conferred upon him.

"Say, brothers, will you meet us?" was sung, every one joining hands.

Rev. Dr. Evarts offered prayer, and pronounced the benediction, and the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS.

The Eighth Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces, having by vote, expressed a preference for the city of Boston as the place for holding the next Convention, at the regular meeting of the Boston Association, held at their rooms, on the 8th of October, 1863, it was unanimously voted to invite the Executive Committee to call the Convention of 1864 to meet in Boston. Subsequently a Committee of twenty-five members was appointed, with full powers, to make arrangements for holding the Convention and for all such exercises and entertainments as might be deemed appropriate.

The Committee of Arrangements assembled on the eighteenth of February, 1864, and commenced active preparations. A Committee was appointed to proceed to Philadelphia to confer with the Executive Committee, who issued the following circular:—

PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 22, 1864.

In accordance with the recommendation of the last Annual Convention, held at Chicago, the undersigned take pleasure in announcing that the Ninth Annual Convention of Delegates from the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces will convene in the Mount Vernon Church, in the City of Boston, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, the 1st day of June, 1864.

The importance of the Convention cannot be overestimated when the perils which beset young men at the present day are realized, and it is, therefore, hoped that all Young Men's Christian Associations will be represented, and that such wise results may be reached as shall, with the divine blessing, tend to the advancement of Christ's cause among those for whose benefit these Associations have been formed.

For the accomplishment of this end, the hearty coöperation and sincere prayers of all interested in the welfare of young men are earnestly requested.

GEORGE H. STUART, <i>Chairman</i> ,	}	Pennsylvania,
GEORGE COOKMAN,		
JOSEPH B. SHEPPARD,		
JAMES GRANT,		
JOHN WIEST,		
WILLIAM J. RHEES, Washington, D. C.,		
WILLIAM H. LINCOLN, Massachusetts,		
ALEX. TYLER, Maine,		
AMOS C. BARSTOW, Rhode Island,		
<i>Members of the Executive Committee.</i>		

The following Circular was sent, by the Committee of Arrangements, to all the Associations in America whose location could be ascertained:—

BOSTON YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, }
May 6, 1864.

DEAR BROTHER:—

You are probably aware that, by vote of the last Convention held at Chicago, and by invitation of the Boston Young Men's Christian Associations, the next Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces will be held in this city in June next. The Convention will meet in the Mount Vernon Congregational Church (Rev. Dr. Kirk's) on Wednesday, June 1st, at 2½ o'clock p. m., for organization and such religious exercises as may be appropriate to the occasion. It is expected that, during the sessions of the Convention, essays will be read and resolutions presented, of such a character as shall be the means of introducing and properly directing the business which the Convention is called upon to consider. On Wednesday evening the Convention will be invited to meet the members and friends of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, in a social festival, at the Music Hall, at which there will be several addresses and music, in connection with which, the members of the Convention will have an opportunity of hearing the new organ which has recently been

placed in the Music Hall. On Thursday evening a public meeting will be held in the Old South Church, which will be addressed by several members of the Convention. It is proposed to devote the evening of Friday to the United States Christian Commission, from the officers of which a report will probably be presented, and in the evening a mass meeting, for the benefit of the same cause, will be held at the Tremont Temple, when addresses will be made by several gentlemen who have been actively connected with the movement.

We had hoped to have been able to make arrangements with railroads, from all parts of the country, for a commutation of one-half the usual fare ; but find, in consequence of the advance in cost of running passenger trains and the great amount of business which now tests the utmost capacity of most of the roads, an unwillingness to listen to any proposals of the kind, with the exception of the Vermont Central Railroad and its connecting lines to Montreal, Toronto, London, and Detroit ; and the Troy and Boston Railroad. Tickets (*via* Vermont Central line) can be procured by delegates, as follows : —

Montreal to Boston and return,	\$12
Toronto “ “ “	13
London “ “ “	15

at the office of the Grand Trunk Railroad in those cities.

Detroit to Boston and return, \$25

at the office of Messrs. Slocum & Thompson, Agents, Detroit ; also at 48 Clark Street, Chicago.

Chicago to Boston and return (*via* Sarnia steamer), berths included, \$25

at 48 Clark Street, Chicago.

In making the above arrangements, the Committee are under obligations to L. Millis, Esq., Agent of the Vermont Central Railroad, and to the Superintendent of the Troy and Boston Railroad. Our friends may rest assured that it is from no want of assiduity, on our part, that no more has been accomplished, as personal and official influence has been brought to bear to try to reverse a decision concerning our own and the Convention at Baltimore and the Baptist Jubilee Celebration in Philadelphia, but without success.

The Committee of Arrangements of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association will be in attendance at the rooms in the Tremont Temple, on the evening of Tuesday and through the day of Wednesday, to receive delegates, who are requested to bring certificates of appointment, signed by the President or Secretary of the Association which they represent,

and report immediately upon arrival, at the above-named place, where entertainment will be provided.

The undersigned, in behalf of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, take great pleasure in extending to all Young Men's Christian Associations a cordial invitation to be represented in this Convention by large delegations, with the assurance that all will be done in our power to render the occasion one both of pleasure and spiritual profit.

The undersigned urgently request the Associations sending delegates, to forward information of the number who may be expected, at the earliest possible moment, after the receipt of this Circular, before May 24th.

It is also desired that as many of the Associations as may be inclined so to do, will observe some portion of the day or evening of Friday, May 27th, in union with the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, as a season of special prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Convention.

It is expected that the Convention will adjourn, *sine die*, on the Sabbath evening, June 5th.

In behalf of the Committee of Arrangements of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association,

Fraternally Yours,

MOSES W. POND, *Chairman.*

THOMAS S. PYCOTT, *Secretary.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION.

W E D N E S D A Y .

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Ninth Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces assembled in the Mount Vernon Church, Boston, Mass., on Wednesday, June 1, 1864, at 2½ o'clock. Geo. H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Executive Committee, took the chair.

The hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds," was sung, and Rev. Edward N. Kirk, D.D., pastor of the Mount Vernon Church, offered the opening prayer.

Upon the recommendation of the Boston Association, an hour was spent in devotional exercises of an interesting character, in which a considerable number of the delegates participated. A soldier of the Union army, who had been wounded in the battle of the Wilderness, near Fredericksburg, Va., addressed the Convention, with great feeling, in behalf of the Army of the Potomac, now engaged in the capture of Richmond.

Mr. Stuart then said that, although he was elected the President of the last Convention, on account of sickness he was unable to perform the duties of the office, and they had devolved upon the Vice-President. Having conducted the devotional services, by request, he would now call upon the Acting President, at Chicago, Joseph A. Pond, of Boston, Mass., to inaugurate this Convention.

Mr. Pond took the chair, and upon calling the Convention to order, for business, delivered the opening address.

ACTING PRESIDENT POND'S ADDRESS.

BRETHREN OF THE CONVENTION, —

It has been stated to me that the custom and the rule of these Conventions, alike, require that the presiding officer of the previous year shall occupy the chair, until a permanent organization shall have been effected.

Accidentally, as has been already intimated, owing to the illness of Mr. Stuart, the duty of presiding over the Convention at Chicago, principally devolved upon myself. Having been kindly desired by him and by other delegates to perform a similar service to-day, I proceed, formally, to call the Convention to order.

Allow me, in doing so, to congratulate you that this Ninth Annual Convention assembles under circumstances so auspicious.

We meet on this beautiful summer day, to which we have looked forward with many pleasant anticipations, under the sunshine and smiles of Heaven, without and within. We have gathered, not from a single city or state or section, but from all the states, loyal to the Constitution and Union of our country, and from our sister and neighboring provinces.

We are here, not to promote a denominational or political organization, not to discuss questions of theology or science, but as earnest, zealous, Christian young men of every sect, united in the bonds of a common brotherhood, to take counsel together concerning schemes of Christian activity and usefulness, and to consider what may be done to enlist and marshal the youth of this generation under the banner of the Great Captain of our salvation. And we hope, by what we shall hear, to gain fresh energy and new activity in prosecuting the honorable and delightful service in which we are engaged.

We have come to congratulate one another upon the signal success which has crowned our labors in that most important department of our operations, which relates to the national army and navy.

A glorious work has been wrought for the soldiers and sailors who have gone down to fight our battles for us. But much remains yet to be done. At this moment, the earnest words of our beloved brother, the indefatigable chairman of the Christian Commission (Mr. Stuart) are ringing in our ears, appealing in behalf of the wounded, the sick, and the

dying, for our continued and increased benevolence, demanded alike by gratitude, humanity, patriotism, and religion.

Another part of our work has already been indicated by one of the delegates, — our duty to the fugitive thousands whom the continued advance of our armies is sending to the North. Nor would we stay them if we could. Let them come, where their humbled manhood may lift itself erect! Let them come where they may find sympathy, relief, education, and salvation!

But another, and not less important, duty remains for *us*, especially, to perform.

It has been stated, as an axiom, that “wars are not favorable to religion.” They cast a withering blight over the land. In their wake, irreligion, immorality, infidelity, vice, and crime stalk with accelerating step.

When our armies are victorious, as soon they will be, when war is hushed, and peace restored, let us fear and tremble, lest, as at the close of our Revolutionary struggle, there be found an appalling decline in the moral and religious sentiment of the people, and lest a long and dreary night of worldliness and irreligion gather upon even the churches of the land. It is for us, as good soldiers of the cross, to gird on the whole armor of God, to be prepared to fight the great battle which must then be given to the hosts of sin and satan.

Brethren and Friends: — This is not the time nor the place, nor am I the person selected for the utterance of those words of welcome which leap to our lips in this hour of greeting. And yet I cannot forbear to say, that it affords me the highest satisfaction to meet many, whose acquaintance I formed or strengthened at Chicago, and to meet you all in my native city. In behalf of the delegates of Boston, and in my own name, I give you a hearty welcome. We shall be happy to mingle our counsels with yours in the deliberations upon which we now enter.

Cephas Brainard, of New York, was appointed temporary Secretary.

A Committee of Arrangements was then appointed by the Chair, as follows: — M. W. Pond, Boston, Mass.; O. Vincent Coffin, Brooklyn, N. Y.; P. B. Simons, Philadelphia, Pa.; R. Baldwin, Toronto, C. W.; J. A. Coleman, Providence, R. I.

On motion of Vincent Colyer, of New York, it was voted, that the rules of the last Convention be adopted as the rules of this Convention, until otherwise ordered.

On motion of Mr. Colgate, a committee of five was appointed to receive and examine the credentials of the delegates, as follows:—E. Colgate, New York; F. W. Smith, Boston, Mass.; T. J. Claxton, Montreal, C. E.; S. Loag, Philadelphia, Pa.; T. S. Shannon, Halifax, N. S.

On motion of Mr. Claxton, of Montreal, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to report rules and orders for the Convention:—S. W. Stebbins, New York; S. G. Deblois, Boston, Mass.; J. Moses, Trenton, N. J.; G. B. Fenner, Danbury, Conn.; C. C. Hall, Elmira, N. Y.

On motion of Mr. Pycott, a committee of one from each state, district, and province represented, was appointed to report a list of officers for the permanent organization of the Convention, as follows:—T. S. Pycott, Boston, Mass.; A. J. Chase, Portland, Me.; H. Chandler, Sandown, N. H.; S. Sheldon, Providence, R. I.; L. H. Higgins, New Haven, Conn.; F. W. Ballard, New York; J. Hilton, Belvidere, N. J.; George Cookman, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. C. Strout, Washington, D. C.; S. M. Hunt, Chicago, Ill.; N. Newcomb, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.; J. Bacon, San Francisco, Cal.; J. R. Dougall, Montreal, C. E.; G. Goulding, Toronto, C. W.; T. S. Shannon, Halifax, N. S.

During the absence of the committees, a hymn was sung, and the Convention was addressed by F. W. Ballard, of New York; T. O. Lincoln, D.D., of Elmira, N. Y.; W. E. Abbott, of Syracuse, N. Y.; W. C. Clegg, of Troy, N. Y.; P. B. Simons, of Philadelphia, Pa.; and R. Sturgis, Jr., of Boston, Mass. Mr. Sturgis appealed very earnestly for prayer for Boston, where were so many who did not acknowledge Jesus Christ or his atonement.

E. Colgate, from the Committee on Credentials, reported the following

LIST OF DELEGATES.

MAINE. <i>Portland.</i> ANDREW J. CHASE, EDWARD B. COOK.	JAMES H. OLNEY, REV. STUART SHELDON, JONA. G. PARKHURST, JOSEPH T. SNOW, REV. J. M. H. DOW, S. H. TABOR, JOSEPH H. HENDRICKS, W. J. KING, EDWARD M. THURSTON, GEO. G. RICHMOND, WILLIAM J. CROSS, JOHN KINGSBURY, J. C. HALL, WM. C. BOARDMAN, BENJ. W. HANE, J. C. CHURCH, J. W. VERNON, ASA LYMAN, EMERY LYON.	REV. A. A. WILLITS, GEO. A. MORAUD, D. A. SUTTON.
NEW HAMPSHIRE. <i>Sandown.</i> REV. HENRY CHANDLER.	<i>Newport.</i> WM. H. ALMY, CHARLES A. SPENCER.	<i>Rochester.</i> REV. YATES HICKEY.
MASSACHUSETTS. <i>Boston.</i> EDWARD H. DUNN, EDWARD G. TILESTON, MOSES W. POND, JAMES WHITE, THOMAS S. PYCOTT, FRANKLIN W. SMITH, RUSSELL STURGIS, JR., ALBERT H. CHAPMAN, GEORGE P. DENNY, SAMUEL JOHNSON, JR., GEORGE A. MCLENNAN, CHARLES T. RUSSELL, JACOB SLEEPER, ALBERT L. NORRIS, EDMUND T. EASTMAN, CHARLES S. BUTLER, HENRY F. COE, JOSEPH A. POND, JOSEPH STORY, PLINY NICKERSON, EDWARD S. TOBEY, ALDEN SPEARE, LUCIUS A. CHASE, LEVI P. ROWLAND, JR., CHARLES DEMOND.	NEW YORK. <i>New York City.</i> V. MORSE, M.D., F. W. BALLARD, EDWARD COLGATE, CEPHAS BRAINARD, JAMES L. STEARNS, WILLIAM F. LEE, WM. H. SWARTWOUT, VINCENT COLYER, JAMES STOKES, JR., SAMUEL W. STEBBINS, MARK HOYT, DAVID D. VAIL.	<i>Oswego.</i> REV. M. GALLAGHER. <i>Elmira.</i> T. O. LINCOLN, D.D., C. C. HALL.
<i>Salem.</i> CHARLES H. PRICE, JOHN C. OSGOOD, L. F. WARREN, EDWARD DEAN, W. A. HOWARD, WM. H. WHIPPLE, S. A. D. SHEPPARD, GEO. E. BATCHELDER.	<i>Troy.</i> H. A. KING, REV. M. DAY, REV. H. C. POTTER, WM. C. CLEGG, B. F. BATCHELDER, E. K. BETTS, W. C. HAUTRESS, WM. TOUGH, W. DEGOLYER, LEVI SUITS, AMISON R. MOORE.	<i>Syracuse.</i> WM. E. ABBOTT. <i>Amsterdam.</i> THOMAS LIDDLE.
CONNECTICUT. <i>New Haven.</i> LUCIUS H. HIGGINS.	<i>Brooklyn.</i>	<i>Binghampton.</i> J. N. LESTER. NEW JERSEY. <i>Trenton.</i> JOHN MOSES, O. T. WALKER.
<i>Danbury.</i> GEORGE B. FENNER, FRANK WASHBURN.	O. V. COFFIN, WM. EDSALL, S. M. GIDDINGS, HENRY WHITE, J. T. CONKLING, M.D.,	<i>Belvidere.</i> J. HILTON, G. P. HILTON.
<i>Waterbury.</i> GEORGE W. BEADE.		PENNSYLVANIA. <i>Philadelphia.</i> GEO. H. STUART, PETER B. SIMONS, GEORGE COOKMAN, THOS. EARP, W. E. CAMP, J. B. SHEPPARD, REV. J. R. TORRENCE, JNO. WEIST, SAMUEL LOAG, REV. CHAS. P. LYFORD, REV. ROBERT J. PARVIN, ISAAC BAKER.
RHODE ISLAND. <i>Providence.</i> J. A. COLEMAN,		DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. JAMES C. STROUT, GEORGE MAY POWELL. ILLINOIS. <i>Chicago.</i> W. W. EVARTS, D.D., CYRUS BENTLEY, S. M. HUNT. MISSOURI. <i>St. Louis.</i> NORTON NEWCOMB, JR.

CALIFORNIA.
San Francisco.
JOSIAH BACON.

CANADA EAST.
Montreal.
REV. J. ALEXANDER,
REV. J. B. BONAR,

REV. JOHN IRWIN,
ALFRED SANDHAM,
THOMAS HOBSON,
T. JAMES CLAXTON,
S. MASSEY,
J. R. DOUGALL,
E. S. LYMAN,
L. CUSHING.

CANADA WEST.
Toronto.
GEORGE GOULDING,
ROBERT BALDWIN.

NOVA SCOTIA.
Halifax.
HON. T. S. SHANNON.

S. W. Stebbins, from the Committee on Rules and Orders, submitted the following report, which was adopted for the government of the Convention : —

RULES OF THE CONVENTION.

1. The order of each day's proceedings shall be as follows : Devotional Exercises — Reading of Minutes — Call for Resolutions, Memorials, and Propositions — Reading of Communications — Reports of Standing Committees — Reports of Special Committees — Unfinished Business.

2. Immediately after the organization is completed, the President shall appoint the following standing committees, each to consist of seven members : —

A Committee on Associations, to which shall be referred all matters touching the Associations in their individual and united action.

A Business Committee, to whom shall be referred all business of a general nature.

A Committee on Public and Devotional Meetings.

But the Convention may refer any business to a special committee, or to the Committee of the Whole, at its pleasure.

3. After the appointment of the committees, memorials, resolutions, and propositions shall be referred by the President, without action or debate, to a standing committee, unless the Convention shall refer the same to a select committee, or to the Committee of the Whole ; and this rule of reference shall apply to all business brought before the Convention, except such as is incidental in its character.

4. The Convention, at any time, may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, and consider in a general form any proposition or matter appertaining to the Associations, with a view to develop the experience of the Associations, and the opinion of delegates upon the subjects under consideration, and at the close of its discussions thereon, the committee shall report its conclusions to the Convention for its action ; the report to be prepared and submitted for such reference to the Committee of the Whole, by the Standing Committee to whose jurisdiction the matter under discussion relates, unless the Committee of the Whole shall appoint a special committee to prepare and submit the report.

5. No committee shall sit while the Convention is in session, without special permission.

6. All committees shall be appointed by the Chair, unless otherwise ordered, and shall report matters referred to them, unless otherwise instructed, previous to the last business session of the Convention.

7. All reports of committees shall be numbered and placed upon the docket, and brought up in regular order in Convention, except such as shall be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

8. No member shall speak more than once on any question until others who wish, have spoken, nor longer than ten minutes, without unanimous consent; and this rule shall prevail in Committee of the Whole.

9. All motions shall be reduced to writing before they are put to vote.

10. The vote, when desired by five members of different Associations, on any proposition, shall be taken by yeas and nays, and recorded. In such cases, each Association shall be entitled to one vote, which shall be cast by a majority of the delegates present.

11. Pending any question, it shall always be in order to move that the debate close, which motion shall be put without discussion, in this form: "Shall the question be now put?"

12. The Convention may at any time suspend the rules for a specified object, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

A hymn was sung, and Rev. J. B. Bonar, of Montreal, C. E., offered prayer.

M. W. Pond, from the Committee of Arrangements, reported as follows:—

1. That the Convention adjourn at 5.30 P. M.

2. That, this evening, the Convention accept the invitation of the Boston Association, and assemble in the Music Hall, at 6½ o'clock, at the Welcome Festival.

3. That the business meetings be held in the Mount Vernon Church, and that public meetings be held on Thursday evening, in the Old South Church, and on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday evening, in the Tremont Temple.

4. That on Friday morning, the Convention accept the invitation of the Boston Association, to make an excursion in Boston harbor.

5. That the Convention meet to-morrow at 9 A. M., and that a half hour be spent in devotional services, no delegate to occupy more than three minutes; that reports of the Association be then received, not to exceed in length, either verbal or written, five minutes.

The report was accepted, and the recommendations adopted.

The following letters were then read:—

SUMMER STREET, May 31, 1864.

JOSEPH A. POND, Esq.

Dear Sir,—As President of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library, I beg to inform you that it would afford the Trustees great pleasure to have the delegates to the annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, about to assemble in this city, visit the Public Library during their stay in Boston.

If this invitation is accepted, you will be pleased to inform Mr. Jewett, the Superintendent of the Library, of the day and hour when it will suit the convenience of the delegates to visit the institution.

I remain, dear Sir, very respectfully yours,

EDWARD EVERETT.

BOSTON, June 1, 1864.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION, —

The Everett and Dwight School District Committees respectfully invite the members of the Convention to visit these Schools, — the Everett at eight, and the Dwight at eight and one-half o'clock, on Saturday morning next. In behalf of the Committees,

ALDEN SPEARE.

A note was received from Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., of Boston, covering an invitation from Rev. Thomas Hill, D. D., President of Harvard University, for the Convention to visit that institution. In his letter to Dr. Shurtleff, President Hill remarks, —

“I believe that Marquis Lafayette and the Prince of Wales are the only persons who have been *invited* to visit the University, but you may assure Mr. Pond, if you will have the goodness to take that trouble, that we shall be glad to receive a visit from the Delegates to the Convention on any day except Saturday.”

On motion of Dr. Lincoln, these invitations were received, and referred to the Committee of Arrangements, and the thanks of the Convention were returned for the same.

Vincent Colyer, of New York, addressed the Convention in behalf of the freedmen of the South, and

presented to each of the members a copy of two reports on that subject.

Rev. Mason Gallagher, of Oswego, N. Y., also addressed the Convention.

T. S. Pycott, from the Committee on Permanent Organization, reported the following list of officers for the convention: —

PRESIDENT.

JOSEPH A. POND, of Boston, Massachusetts.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

S. W. STEBBINS, of New York.

REV. WILLIAM W. EVARTS, D. D., of Chicago, Illinois.

T. JAMES CLAXTON, of Montreal, C. E.

WILLIAM J. KING, of Providence, Rhode Island.

PETER B. SIMONS, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM J. RHEES, of Washington, D. C.

SECRETARIES.

O. VINCENT COFFIN, of Brooklyn, New York.

JOHN MOSES, of Trenton, New Jersey.

ROBERT BALDWIN, of Toronto, Canada West.

ANDREW J. CHASE, of Portland, Maine.

The report was unanimously accepted by the Convention. On the question of its adoption, Mr. Pond begged to decline the honor the Committee intended to confer upon him, and requested permission to divide the report. That portion of it relating to Vice-Presidents and Secretaries was then unanimously adopted. Mr. Pond again desired to be excused; but, after urgent solicitation, consented to serve, and the report was adopted.

In accepting the office, the President expressed himself deeply moved by the unexpected action of the Convention, and, tendering his most grateful acknowledgments, signified his desire to do all in his power to promote its success. As he had previously spoken at

some length, and the hour of adjournment had arrived, he would not further detain the Convention.

The Convention then adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention assembled in the Music Hall at six and one-half o'clock, where the Boston Association had provided a social entertainment of welcome. The spacious and elegant hall was decorated with the flags of various nations, prominent among which were those of the United States, England, and Russia; the Stars and Stripes and the Cross of St. George standing side by side. Tables for a collation were laid upon the platform, at the end of the hall and in the various corridors. These were tastefully decorated with beautiful flowers, and loaded with tempting edibles. Upon the platform were seated the officers of the Convention, the officers and members of the Boston Association, and many distinguished gentlemen who are their friends and patrons. Among these were his Honor FREDERIC W. LINCOLN, JR., the Mayor of Boston; his Honor E. C. FITZ, the Mayor of Chelsea; Hon. LINUS CHILD, Hon. JACOB SLEEPER, Hon. G. W. COCHRANE, Hon. GEORGE W. WARREN, Hon. N. BOYNTON, E. S. TOBEY, Esq., J. M. BEEBE, Esq., WILLIAM ROPES, Esq., STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, Esq., Rev. Bishop E. R. AMES, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Drs. R. H. NEALE, B. STOW, R. ANDERSON, W. JENKS, G. M. RANDALL, G. W. BLAGDEN, and others. The delegates occupied reserved seats in the centre of the hall.

EDWARD G. TILESTON, Esq., President of the Boston Y. M. C. Association, presided. An hour was spent in performances upon the Grand Organ by Dr. S. P. TUCKERMAN, Organist of St. Paul's Church. This magnificent instrument, which was built in Wurtemberg, and placed in this hall in October, 1863, is believed to be unsur-

passed by any organ in the world in power, completeness, capacity, and purity, vigor and richness of tone. The programme had been selected so as to afford great variety, displaying its grand harmonies and melodies; its deep and heavy thunderings; and its sweet and soothing tones, dying away and hushing even the breathing of the delighted audience.

The following were the pieces performed : —

1. Grand Offertoire in C, Wely.
2. " See the Conquering Hero comes," Handel.
3. Selections for " Vox Humana " and " Bifra," stops.
4. Andante movement. Op. 47, Beethoven.
5. " He sent a thick darkness." (Israel in Egypt.) . . . Handel.
6. Dead March in Saul. (By request.) Handel.

Rev. J. W. Parker, D. D., of Boston, offered prayer. EDWARD G. TILESTON, the President of the Boston Association, then proceeded, in behalf of the Association, to welcome the Convention.

PRESIDENT TILESTON'S ADDRESS.

Mr. President of the Convention, and Gentlemen, Delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces, in convention assembled; in the name of the Young Men's Christian Association of the City of Boston, I greet you with a cordial, *an affectionate* welcome! We welcome you to our hearts and homes; to our sanctuaries and festivities; and to everything, *dear friends*, that a munificent Providence may place in our hands for your comfort and happiness! *For we are brethren!* and we recognize in you disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, gathered from the four winds of this great continent to repeat the story of the cross, the story of redeeming love! — to tell how, as you have "acknowledged God in all your ways he hath directed your paths;" and of your confidence in him that "he will never leave you nor forsake you" — to talk together of what he hath done for us as individuals, as families, as communities, as associations, and as a church (for here we know no sect), but above all what he hath wrought through us, and these various agencies and that glorious organization, "whose praises ring through earth and heaven," the United States Christian Commission, for our army, our country, and the world. Yes, and to thank him, too, that in his kind Providence he hath raised up such a

faithful laborer to be our leader, *whom we all delight to honor*,* whose voice you will hear this evening. "We have sat together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus," in days that are passed. We have participated in your hospitalities, generous, noble, and Christian, at Buffalo, Cincinnati, Montreal, Richmond, Charleston, Troy, New Orleans, and Chicago; and I doubt not, in the providence of God, may be permitted to do so again, yes, even at Richmond and Charleston, as we may now do, I doubt not, at New Orleans. Refugees from the South, in this audience to-night, will bear me witness that there are, to-day, thousands of young men in the rebel ranks, impressed men, who are as truly loyal to our cause as any of us, and are earnestly praying for the opportunity to take the oath of allegiance, and fight under our banners.

It was only a few days ago that I met a wounded soldier from the front, who told me that a company of his regiment, one evening at dusk, surrounded, surprised, and captured eighty rebels, all of whom, without a single exception, threw down their arms and thanked God that they were at last under the protection of the Stars and Stripes of this great Republic.

Devoutly should we thank God for the encouragement before us, — "He who sitteth upon the circle of the earth, who stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain," is mindful of our cause. Let us in all our deliberations be cheerful and trustful, *even to rejoicing in tribulation*, "knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope," and

"Hope is the brightest gift of earth,
It quenches anguish at its birth,
It glimmers through a cloud of tears;
It wakens joys, bids vanish fears.
No veil of misery so dark,
But through it gleams some little spark
Of Hope, to lighten sorrow's rays,
And point beyond to brighter days."

Rev. Edward N. Kirk, D. D., was then introduced to speak in behalf of the *people* of Boston.

DR. KIRK'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION : —

A Young Men's Christian Association is one of the evidences of an advancing civilization — a proof of the world's progress.

In former ages the best young men separated themselves from the world by abandoning its industrial pursuits and its home-life. But you retain your places in God's great school, and show young men how to

* George H. Stuart, Esq.

live in the world until Providence calls them out of it ; how to live in the world and above it. This was the blessing the Saviour asked for his disciples : “ Not that thou wouldst take them out of the world, but keep them from the evil.”

“ Ye are the salt of the earth ;” but the salt can act efficiently only by contact with that which it is used to preserve.

I congratulate you on your connection with these associations. What a change has taken place since my father was a young man ! He and a few young men, that knew the worth of prayer, used to meet together weekly to seek God’s blessing ; but they arranged to have their meetings in the night, lest even good men should censure the imprudence. Now, young men publicly organize themselves into associations as disciples of Jesus.

I congratulate you on being connected with these institutions. They have become not only an existence, but also a power in the world. Already has the seal of the divine blessing been put upon them. The personal piety of the brethren has been nurtured and matured by them ; they have led hundreds away from the paths of the destroyer, and thus defeated satan by his own weapon — the social nature of the young. Beautifully have these societies illustrated the nature of Christianity, as it embraces within its hallowed circle the freshness and vigor of youth, and consecrates it to the noblest ends and the highest service. You have entered the true evangelical alliance ; for here is cultivated that catholicity of spirit, that union of heart, which no sectarian zeal can quench, and which will characterize alike the coming days of the Church on earth, and her eternity above.

I congratulate you on your coming to our city, not for even the highest political end ; nor for the promotion of art or science, literature or commerce, important as they may be. We are perhaps members of opposite political parties, as we certainly are of different nations ; but we are all one in Christ ; and we have come together to promote his glory and kingdom ; and the king himself meets you here. Sublime, then, is the object you seek, and sublime are the circumstances under which you come together.

I congratulate you, also, on your convening in this city. The baptism of the Holy Spirit has been upon our assemblies during the past week. You may witness some evidences here of physical exhaustion ; but you will meet here an earnest and prayerful spirit.

Brethren, the pastors of Boston and Massachusetts welcome you as their fellow-servants, as the allies of our beloved young brethren, as the representatives of Him whom we supremely love and adore.

The churches welcome you as brethren and representatives of affiliated churches, the future pillars and guides of the One Church of God.

We particularly welcome to our metropolis, our sanctuary, our dwellings, the citizens of a neighboring kingdom.

To you we need hardly make an apology for the condition of our house. You knew we were in the midst of house-cleaning, and must therefore have anticipated finding some things in confusion. The state of the case is this : The sill of the house had a rotten spot in it ; but some of the original builders had a whim of keeping it there when it was laid upon the foundation ; and it grew worse and worse, as might have been expected ; until, at length, it had become so putrid our Father could bear it no longer, and so rickety that the house was really in danger of falling about our ears. We have accordingly employed two famous builders, the firm of Lincoln and Grant, to remove the beam, and put a new one in its place. So we look for all to be made right before winter sets in.

Bear, then, with the sound of the hammer and saw, and the noise of the workmen, and some occasional allusions to family matters.

Your visit here, by the kindness of God, will be as unembarrassed as if the land were in perfect peace.

We do not ask you to participate in our troubles of house-repairing. We do, however, believe that Englishmen will be true to the grandest elements of their national history, and to the illustrious names of their ancestors, from the nobles at Runnymede to the Hampdens and Wilberforces of modern times.

We expect you to sympathize with freedom, and loyalty against oppression and treason. The day may be near in which Britain and the Republic will recognize that they have vital interests in common ; common perils, common struggles before them, and a common destiny.

May this visit not only refresh your hearts by the sweet interchange of Christian sentiments, and by ascending with us to the cross and the mercy-seat, but also serve to bind us in closer bonds of personal and national friendship, and Christian fellowship.

Once more, young friends, we bid you a hearty welcome among us.

Joseph A. Pond, the President of the Convention, was introduced to respond. He said that it had been designed by the Committee of Arrangements that the President of the Convention should respond in its behalf. Quite unexpectedly however, to them and to himself, a President had been selected from the Boston delegates. Confining himself therefore, for obvious reasons, to the

merely formal expression of the thanks of the Convention for the eloquent and appropriate welcome which had been given, he asked the privilege of presenting George H. Stuart, Esq., of Philadelphia, who would speak for the guests of the evening.

Mr. Stuart was received with warm applause. He expressed the gratitude which he knew they all felt for this generous reception. He was glad that the Convention had assembled in Boston rather than in any other city. He was proud of the reception extended to them, and he thanked the Association for the hearty words of welcome, for the rich repast prepared, for the general bill of fare provided for the Convention. He had something more to say than mere formal, ordinary words of welcome. In the name of the brave defenders of the country, he would thank the Boston Association for honoring every draft made upon its treasury by the Christian Commission. He referred to what Boston had done at the time of the battles of Gettysburg. He asked Mr. E. S. Tobey, by telegraph, if they would honor a draft for \$10,000, as it would all be needed. The answer he received was \$35,000. During the recent campaign, after General Grant had been fighting seven days, he thought he must draw another check on Boston for \$50,000. Boston had answered that check with \$70,000. The speaker related many incidents of the work of the Commission in the army, among them that of a young man who, in his dying hour, said to Chaplain McKay, "Tell Father Abraham not to back down an inch for us boys." (Applause.) That was the spirit that animated the hearts of the brave young men. (Repeated applause.) The speaker mentioned several touching cases of devotion to the country, particularly among those who had been starved at the Libby prison. The stories of deaths from starvation and vermin and suffer-

ing from more active cruelty, by our gallant soldiers, in rebel prisons, would scarcely be believed.

At the conclusion of Mr. Stuart's address, the audience rose, and sang the following hymn, to the tune "America," accompanied by the organ : —

Soldiers of Christ are we ;
 Marching to victory,
 Marching to heaven !
 In his bright armor dressed,
 His cross our chosen crest,
 And for our food and rest
 His word is given.

Though foes our path surround,
 Though toils and cares abound,
 Onward we tread !
 We hear our Lord's command ;
 We grasp each shining brand ;
 And, like a banner grand,
 Hope waves o'erhead !

Thou blessed Prince of Peace !
 Give thou our strength increase,
 Our courage raise.
 And when our course is run,
 Warfare and labor done,
 To thee our hearts, in one,
 Shall give the praise.

Soldiers of Christ are we ;
 Light, Love, and Liberty,
 Our battle-call !
 Till truth shall win the day,
 Till right shall gain the sway,
 Till sin is driven away,
 We fight or fall !

Moses W. Pond, the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, was introduced, who briefly explained the plan upon which the collation was to be served, so as to avoid confusion, and invited the audience to partake of the repast, rich and plenteous, which had been provided.

Nearly an hour was spent in attending to this part of the programme, in which, owing to the admirable arrangements of the Committee, the entire company was served with promptness and satisfaction.

Just at the close of the feast, the audience were surprised by a visit from a party of Russian naval officers, in their national uniform, escorted by Alderman Charles F. Dana, and other members of the City Government. Their arrival was the signal for general applause. The "Russian National Hymn" was performed on the Organ and the audience at once resumed their seats.

The party consisted of Rear Admiral Lessofski, Flag Captain Sarkoonin, Captains Kopytoff, Kroemer, and Boutakoff, Flag Lieutenant Lutke, Aid-de-camp to the Grand Duke Constantine, Lieutenant Scrutsahkin, Midshipmen Wolfe and Lang, and other officers of three vessels of the Russian fleet lying in Boston harbor, numbering about forty persons. They were conducted to the platform, with the exception of Admiral Lessofski, who, with his lady, was seated in the centre of the hall.

As soon as quiet was restored, the President of the Convention arose, and, in its behalf, gave a warm and cordial welcome to the guests of the City. He alluded to the opportunity which they enjoyed of meeting, at the same moment, the representatives of nearly all the loyal States, and welcomed them to the joyful festivities of the evening. He then presented them to the audience, who arose and cheered them vociferously, amid the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, and the utmost enthusiasm. The Admiral and the other officers immediately arose, and gracefully bowed their acknowledgment of these compliments. The visitors remained until the close, and exhibited much delight at what they saw and heard.

The festival exercises were then resumed, as follows :

Quartet, "Benedictus," (From the Mass in G.), Weber. Mrs. H. M. Smith, Miss Annie L. Cary, Mr. B. F. Gilbert, Mr. P. H. Powers.

Soprano Solo, "Recitative and Aria, "Angels ever bright and fair." Handel. Mrs. H. M. Smith.

Rev. A. A. Willits, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was introduced, and he made an excellent and characteristic address, replete alike with eloquence and humor, which was received with repeated rounds of applause.

At the conclusion of Mr. Willit's address it was announced that letters had been received from Hon. Edward Everett, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, Hon. Alex. H. Bullock, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Rev. Professor Peabody, of Harvard University. A note from his Excellency, Governor John A. Andrew, who had promised to address the Convention, expressed "his regret, with some mortification, that he did not keep his engagement." Excessive weariness, from the arduous duties of the day, rendered him "absolutely incapable of the effort which attendance on the Convention would require."

The following letter from Hon. Salmón P. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, was read:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17, 1864.

GENTLEMEN: It is hardly possible for me to avail myself of your invitation to attend the Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, at Boston, during the first week in June. I should be very glad to do so. The objects of the Associations are of the utmost importance, and their work, especially that wrought through the Christian Commission, can not fail to excite the warmest sympathies of all patriotic and Christian men. God greatly blesses it, and the benedictions of tens of thousands of the defenders of the country follow it.

Yours very truly, S. P. CHASE.

Vocal performances were continued, as follows:—

Canzonetta, "In questa tomba oscura," Beethoven. Miss Annie L. Cary.

Trio, "Lift thine eyes," (From "Elijah,") Mendelssohn. Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Fisk, Miss Cary.

Rev. William W. Evarts, D. D., of Chicago, Ill., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Convention, then delivered the following address: —

DR. EVARTS' ADDRESS.

On behalf of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the West, I am most happy to respond to the greeting and welcome of kindred Associations of the East.

At this crisis of national peril, we feel more tenderly that our country is one and inseparable, and scorn and detest the treasonable thought of surrendering our political alliance. With wish and will we abide by the Constitution and the Union; and, "sink or swim, survive or perish," share with New England the destiny of the Republic.

If you think us a little vain in sometimes boasting that we are enlarged New Englanders, expanded *Yankees*, be assured we intend compliment, while we claim distinction. For the branch, however beautiful, efflorescent, and fruitful, bears not the tree, but the tree the branch; and we would fain have you proud of your first-born, stalwart, and promising son of the lake, the prairie, and the mighty river.

In the cause, hope, and aim of the Young Men's Christian Association we are with you in a wider than national fellowship, and extend our greeting also to our brethren of the Provinces. Like the Reformation, the missionary enterprise, the Sabbath school, this order of association may mark an era in the history of the church; and its recurring anniversary be acknowledged more important than ancient ecclesiastical council, or modern denominational Convention or Conference, Assembly or Association.

In the diversity of doctrine, discipline, and ceremonial, arising from the freedom and imperfection of human reason, some form of catholic association seems necessary to demonstrate and symbolize the oneness of the Christian church, and refute the envious calumnies of the Papacy and infidelity, by rendering palpable and prominent the maximum of union, and the minimum of difference among Christians.

Magnifying the same Bible, the same Sabbath, the same Saviour, the same fellowship of saints, and the same hope of glory, the Christian church attains a far more vital and effective spiritual unity than was ever compassed by Paganism or Judaism, Moslemism or Papacy.

Catholic association is also necessary to the most economical and thorough

spiritual husbandry, especially of large communities. Without it, in their particular husbandry, churches and denominations are ever liable to overlap each other in a waste of agencies, while leaving half the field without any seeding or culture whatever.

In Chicago, both the relief of the poor and tract distribution have been confided to the supervision of the Young Men's Christian Association.

In maintaining the defences of public virtue, originating and carrying forward needed reforms, more than individual or denominational action is necessary.

As an untrained and unarmed populace would be impotent against a besieging army, so desultory individual and church effort is impotent to repel forces of organized social and moral evils now beleaguering society.

If insidious and formidable aggressions of evil are to be withstood, safeguards of public virtue maintained, Christian reforms carried forward, there must be common counsel and coöperation of the church.

But for the Young Men's Christian Association of Chicago, the Romanists would have gained control of one of our public institutions of charity. And in our large towns, who better than they to marshal the defences of the Sabbath, now so fearfully menaced.

But while incidentally abetting Christian union and reform, the Young Men's Christian Association seeks, primarily, to invest the young with safeguards of Christian companionship.

In seeking employment and fortune in the city, the young man leaves behind him home, kindred, church,—everything known, familiar, and sacred; and, while assailed by unaccustomed temptations, he is without the accustomed safeguards of virtue. He is like the graceful undergrowth of the forest. While remaining in its native soil the tender sapling is sheltered by the broad-armed parent trees from the storm sweeping over it; losing not a limb, or twig, or leaf; striking its roots deeper and deeper, and rising higher and higher, till at length it supersedes the decaying ancient trees, rising up in their stead, defying the storms of centuries. But removed prematurely from its native shelter to some exposed hillside, how often untempered heats of summer or blasts of winter wither or uproot it; a symbol of the peril and destruction of exposed and defenceless youth in our large cities.

With proper care and culture they may grow more gracefully and beautifully as the trees in your unrivalled city common and garden; but neglected, the place of their fall, and not of their bloom and beauty, will be mournfully marked.

A city is a stormy cape on the sea of life, strown with wrecks of adventurous mariners. As often vessels are kept in the offing by adverse winds, or are seen in great numbers waiting for favoring breezes to double a

cape, so countless noble crafts are waiting and beating against adverse winds, to turn this cape, and pursue a hopeful and prosperous voyage. Let beacons blaze over these dangerous waters, and floating buoys mark the safe channels. And even for the unfortunate and sinful, in ministries and appliances of reform, in the sentiment of your own poet, leave foot-prints on the sands of time that seeing, your shipwrecked brothers may have hope again.

Passing by the rooms of the Boston Association, the other evening, the cheerful light attracted my attention. So over all the dark ways of sin and sorrow, may the light of these Associations beam, — “a light in the window” for the thoughtless youth, the prodigal, the sceptic; inviting him to companionship of the church, the safeguards of virtue, and the pursuit of Heaven.

The interesting exercises were concluded with music:

Bass Solo, “The Soul’s Errand,” Callcott. Mr. P. H. Powers.

Quartet, “Oh, come, every one that thirsteth.” (From “Elijah.”) Mendelssohn. Mrs. Smith, Miss Cary, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Powers.

Doxology, sung by the audience, accompanied by the organ. Tune, “Old Hundred.”

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator’s praise arise!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung,
Through every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord!
Eternal truth attends thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

The festival was entirely successful, and afforded great gratification to the delegates, in whose honor it was given. Everything was arranged in the most admirable manner, and was executed with the greatest promptness and success, much to the credit of the Committee of Arrangements of the Boston Association.

THURSDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

The Convention assembled at the Mount Vernon Church at 9 o’clock, according to adjournment, S. W. Stebbins, of New York, first Vice-President, in the chair.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman. Rev. Dr. Kirk made a brief address, and devotional exercises were continued for half an hour, according to the recommendation of the report of the Committee of Arrangements. At their conclusion, the President assumed the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Cephas Brainard, of New York, the temporary Secretary, and accepted by the Convention.

The next business in order being resolutions, memorials, and propositions, W. Edsall, of Brooklyn, N. Y., offered the following: What form of initiation, in the judgment of this Convention, is best adapted to add interest and impressiveness in the admission of new members to our various local organizations?

Referred to the Committee on Associations.

On motion of Dr. Lincoln, a committee of five on the "State of the Country" was appointed, as follows:—

T. O. Lincoln, D. D., *Elmira, N. Y.*; E. G. Tileston, *Boston, Mass.*; F. W. Ballard, *New York City*; G. M. Powell, *Washington, D. C.*; Rev. R. J. Parvin, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

The President then announced the Standing Committees of the Convention.

COMMITTEE ON ASSOCIATIONS. — J. R. Dougall, *Montreal, C. E.*; W. W. Evarts, D. D., *Chicago, Ill.*; W. C. Clegg, *Troy, N. Y.*; G. B. Fenner, *Danbury, Ct.*; John Moses, *Trenton, N. J.*; Josiah Bacon, *San Francisco, Cal.*

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS. — T. S. Pycott, *Boston, Mass.*; T. J. Claxton, *Montreal, C. E.*; J. L. Stearns, *New York*; P. B. Simons, *Philadelphia, Pa.*; J. H. Olney, *Providence, R. I.*; E. Colgate, *New York*; E. B. Cook, *Portland, Me.*

COMMITTEE ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES. — S. W. Stebbins, *New York*; W. J. King, *Providence, R. I.*; Andrew J. Chase, *Portland, Me.*; J. Irwin, *Montreal, C. E.*; S. M. Hunt, *Chicago, Ill.*; J. C. Strout, *Washington, D. C.*; R. Sturgis, Jr., *Boston, Mass.*

On motion of T. S. Pycott, Boston, it was voted to refer all proposed additions to the list of delegates to the Committee on Credentials.

C. Brainard moved that the rules be so far suspended as to permit the Standing Committees to retire at once, for consultation regarding the matters submitted to them. The motion was carried.

David A. Sutton, of Brooklyn, N. Y., offered the following resolutions:—

“*Resolved*, That this Convention recommend to the various Young Men’s Christian Associations the necessity, as well as propriety, of more extended labor in behalf of the Temperance Cause, in order that the great evil of drunkenness may be checked by a total abstinence from alcoholic stimulants—wine, beer, and other intoxicating beverages.

“*Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the various Associations here represented.”

Referred to Committee on Associations.

On motion of E. G. Tileston, Boston, it was voted that the clergymen of this city be invited to take seats on the floor of the Convention.

D. A. Sutton offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

“*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed on subjects relating to Young Men’s Christian Associations in different lands.”

D. A. Sutton, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*; J. B. Bonar, *Montreal, C. E.*; Geo. H. Stuart, *Philadelphia, Pa.*; E. G. Tileston, *Boston, Mass.*; R. Baldwin, *Toronto, C. W.*; H. C. Potter, *Troy, N. Y.*; M. Gallagher, *Oswego, N. Y.*, were appointed.

The several States and Provinces were called, for reports from the Associations. Responses were made as follows:—

CANADA EAST.

MONTREAL, by J. R. Dougall. *President*, T. James Claxton; *Corresponding Secretary*, J. Redpath Dougall.

In the report presented last year at Chicago we explained how, during the winter then closed, the Association had experienced a revival. From being (as it had for a year or two been) little more than a committee supporting and reporting our city mission with its two missionaries, it had become an active organization, alive in all its parts, and numbering 334. This progress being in part attributed, under God to the timely visits of Mr. Hammond and other evangelists, whose labors had sent a thrill of life through every nerve of the Church of Christ in Montreal..

The year which has since elapsed has been, by divine blessing, one of still further progress. We have still our missionaries in the field, engaged in both domiciliary visitations and among the sailors in the port. There are none of our city institutions, whether charities, barracks, or jail, where they are not known as regular visitors, while from the home of the mechanic to the cellar of the drunkard and the hut of the gipsy and on board of every ship which enters our port, has been their daily round of toil. As their's is however not properly Association work, we pass it over to say what, in the strength of the Master, we are attempting to do *through* the young men, and what we are seeking to do *for* young men.

We have hanging in our rooms a map in which the city (population 120,000) is divided into thirteen districts for cottage meetings. Each of these is assigned to a committee, whose chairman reports monthly to the mission committee. The duty of these district committees is to hold, in whatever places they can obtain for the purpose, small meetings for the regular instruction of the neighbors in the way of salvation. The meetings held during the past winter have been twice as many as the winter before, between fifty and sixty young men having been engaged in the work. Cottage meetings have always been (for good reasons) undertaken simply as winter work; but, this spring, those attending several of them have so earnestly requested their continuance that it has been resolved to make a few of them permanent.

A Sunday evening meeting of a more organized character has existed for two years in Griffintown, one of the most needy parts of the city, being in the hands of a large committee who visit diligently for it on Sunday afternoons. A Children's Penny Savings Bank, in connection with this meeting, has its office hours on a week night. The room in which this meeting is held has also been the meeting place of a secular Mutual Improvement Class of the young men of the neighborhood, managed under the direction of the Association by a gentleman of ability. It is our hope

that this school-house in which there is also a flourishing Sunday school, will soon be only one of several similar centres of usefulness.

Only one Sunday school is at present under the control of the Association. A social meeting of the Sunday-school teachers of the city was called before the new year for the purpose of securing to them an opportunity for sympathy and the interchange of thought, which they did not otherwise possess, and of laying before them a scheme which we had in contemplation of forming a central library of reference for the free use of ministers and Sunday-school teachers. The result of the meeting was the enthusiastic approval of the library scheme, which has since been in part carried out, and the resolution to make such meetings of Sunday-school teachers periodical. The second was held on the 26th May, when a committee was appointed to complete the organization. When this felt want is once secured, it must be worked independently of the Association.

A body of young men about thirty in number have made the shipping the sphere of their special efforts during the season of navigation. The wharves being divided out into districts, assigned to small committees, have been visited on Sunday mornings for the distribution of tracts; and, when possible, religious conversation with the seamen. Bodies of men thus engaged in special efforts report monthly, through their chairman, to the Mission Committee, and generally hold among themselves periodical prayer-meetings.

After being forced thrice to move our head-quarters, we have at last settled down for a term of years in rooms which, while we have endeavored to make them pleasing to the most tasteful visitor, are yet meant to be the daily resort of the poorest and humblest of our brethren. Our rooms have been the scene of some interesting social gatherings, and efforts have been made to form in them classes for debating and the study of various subjects, which have met with poor success. A cheap but very valuable course of lectures during the winter, although pecuniarily successful, did not draw respectably large audiences. The Griffintown Mutual Improvement Class maintained a good course of free lectures. A Sunday-morning religious Mutual Improvement Class, in the rooms, has been passably successful.

Our room prayer-meeting has been hitherto but small, but will, we hope, increase in attendance. Montreal, with a Protestant population of only about 25 or 30,000, sustains pretty well two other daily prayer-meetings. A Sunday-afternoon prayer-meeting, commenced immediately after the Troy convention, has always been well attended and interesting.

With a view of keeping the members and Christian public informed as to the operations of the Association, a periodical, named the "Montreal

Young Men's Christian Association Reporter," has been started. It is four pages 8vo size, the outside pages being occupied with matter connected with the Association, and the inside forming a good tract. It is circulated gratuitously.

Besides providing attractive rooms, it is hard to say where to begin definite, direct work for the good of young men as a class. To fulfil this part of our mission, Mr. Alfred Sandham has been recently associated with us in the double capacity of assistant secretary and missionary to young men. He superintends our employment book which, since it was opened six weeks ago, has proved exceedingly useful, twenty-one young men out of thirty-four, whose names have been placed there, having found places; and in many other ways he gets opportunities of usefulness among the class which is most dear to our hearts as an Association.

CANADA WEST.

TORONTO, by Robert Baldwin, the President.

The Association was organized only about three months ago, but has had real existence for some fifteen months. In the end of February, 1863, there was a preliminary meeting of about twelve young men. It was agreed that it was high time that there should be in Toronto a non-denominational Young Men's Christian Association. Reports were obtained from various Associations in the United States and elsewhere, and then another meeting was held, at which, considering the failure of a former Association in Toronto and the history of one of the most successful Associations in England, it was decided only to establish a weekly prayer-meeting of young men of different denominations. This was done, and a short conversation on some subject introduced by one of the members appointed at the previous meeting. This continued until about three months ago, when the Association was regularly organized. One of the questions with us was whether we should have any associate members or not. It was decided in the negative, and we do not elect members who are not considered both Christians, and likely to attend our meeting and take some active part in our Association. The Association has now thirty members, and some others sometimes attend our meetings, but have not yet been enrolled as members; but the average attendance at our prayer-meetings is only about twelve.

The active work taken up by the Association is the visitation of the Hospital and Jail, and Bible and Tract distribution. The members devoted to the latter are in fact doing the work of missionaries to the sailors and the lumbermen, who are in Toronto during the greater part of the summer

rafting timber, as they get these men to join them in reading the Bible. The Association intend to establish a Sabbath-afternoon Bible class.

The works the Association has taken up have been in fact handed over to it by the denominational associations, which in Toronto, so far from clashing with this Catholic association, have really been the fathers of it, and still feed it.

LONDON, by J. R. Dougall.

The Association in this city was formed in Nov., 1856, and has held on its steady course to the present time. There have been some fluctuations, but "patient perseverance in well doing" has been the characteristic of its leading members.

In connection with the Association we have a Bible class and prayer-meeting; also a very efficient Tract Distribution Society. During six months of the year the Association provides each week a free lecture, to which all classes of the community are invited. With but one or two exceptions, all the members of the various Protestant denominations in our city are members of the Association.

Among the fruits of the Association we may mention that several young men have been led, through its influence, to devote themselves to the great work of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Our experience as an Association increasingly convinces us of the great importance of Young Men's Christian Associations, and strengthens our desires that such a genius for good might be established in every city, town, and village throughout this vast continent.

Dear Brethren: We should have felt it a great privilege, as an Association to have had our delegates present with you in your deliberations that they might personally have conveyed to you our loving salutations, and assured you of our deep interest in all things that relate to the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom on the earth.

We feel that the place and circumstances of your present meeting invest the Young Men's Christian Association Convention for 1864 with unusual importance. The thought that you are assembled in a country where mighty hosts are contending on fields of blood and slaughter that truth may triumph over error, loyalty over treason, liberty over bondage, and freedom over slavery; that the present conflict in which so many of your fathers, brothers, and sons have engaged, is one of national integrity against vile usurpation and lawless anarchy, of right against wrong; that you are assembled in a state and city which are second to none in intelligence, piety, Christian generosity, or devotion to the Redeemer's cause; as manifested by the consecration of wealth, and the multitude of their sons and daughters whom time-honored Massachusetts and puritan

Boston have sent forth to convey the good tidings of everlasting peace and salvation to those who are sitting in the region and shadow of death ; such thoughts as these make us feel that such an assemblage as that we now address, is invested with greater solemnity, has laid upon it vaster responsibilities, is called upon to discharge more important duties and will exercise a greater influence than any Young Men's Christian Association Convention that has yet been held.

Dear Brethren, you need not our counsel, but, we believe, you will not despise the sympathy of your Canadian brethren. We sorrow with you in your distresses, but we are encouraged to hope that the present fearful struggle will be overruled for good, by the consideration that the law of God's procedure is to bring forth great and lasting benefits to nations, as well as to individuals, as the result of *severe discipline*. When God has destined any of his servants to perform some great work, has He not almost invariably sent them to the school of adversity there to be trained to the strength of faith and the power of endurance needful for the important work ? so it was with the patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, even so do we judge from the history of the past, that when God would make of any people a great nation, He does not throw them into the lap of luxury, or rock them in the cradle of undisturbed prosperity ; but they are disciplined to severe trials and led through dark days of adversity, and not unfrequently the way to national exaltation and distinguished eminence, has been through valleys of slaughter and streams of blood. Has it been so in the history of the past ? Shall it not be so with the United States ?

As Canadians — and yet most of us by our nativity, English, Scotch, and Irish — we devoutly pray that the Lord of Hosts, the God of battles, may give success to your arms and cause the man-ennobling, God-honoring principles for which we believe the armies of the North are now contending, to be speedily and firmly established throughout your vast domain.

JOHN POTTS, *President*.

LAWRENCE GIBSON, *Corresponding Secretary*.

* MAINE.

PORTLAND, by Andrew J. Chase.

MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, by S. P. Rowland, Jr., Librarian.

Our class for intellectual improvement continues to receive encouragement and favor. During the year there has been a large access of new

members, many having joined the Association for the purpose of uniting with its Literary Class.

The regular meetings are held once a fortnight, during nine months of the year. The exercises consist of reading of essays, declamation, dialogues, and debate. At all the public exhibitions the exercises have been exceedingly interesting, and of a high order. At the commencement of the season the Literary Class was represented in the army by forty-four of its members. Ten have reënlisted, three have been commissioned as captains, and four as lieutenants. Several of the class have laid down their lives for their country, and while we mourn their loss, we do so "not as those without hope."

A book has been kept at the Rooms containing the names and references of young men wishing employment, and also of firms who want assistants; thus many have secured permanent places. The Employment Committee published and distributed through the business part of the city an almanac card, giving information of the objects of the Committee, to the effect that business men could be furnished with capable and reliable young men in all branches of business, and also that young men of our Association might be supplied with good situations on application to the Committee.

The Boarding-House Committee have visited each house, and allowed no names to remain upon the Bulletin unless we knew them to be good Christian homes for young men. The list now numbers twenty. We know a number of cases where young men have been brought into the kingdom by the good influence exerted over them in these pious families. It is very important to give young men, coming from their homes to the city, the best substitute for pious home influence; this is the reason why no other names except those of religious families are allowed to remain upon the Bulletin. The list is used daily, and hundreds of young men have been benefited by it.

Bibles, Testaments, Hymn Books, etc., have been distributed, mostly at the Rooms, and on board the U. S. receiving ship Ohio, as follows:—

Bibles,	323	Soldiers' Hymn Books,	2,880
Testaments and Psalms,	1,175	Miscellaneous Books,	2,122
Prayer Books,	688	Religious Papers,	8,155
Sailors' Text Books,	850	Foreign Testaments,	73

In addition a large number of tracts have been placed on board the various naval vessels at the Navy Yard.

The social prayer meetings of the Association have been held, as heretofore, on every evening excepting Sunday, at nine o'clock, closing at a quarter before ten o'clock.

The class for the study of the Bible has met every Saturday evening

during the year, and the interest has been well maintained, the attendance being quite large.

The Rooms have been open, as usual, from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M., and the number frequenting them has seldom been greater than during the past year. Regular meetings of the Association, the Literary Class, the Board of Managers, the Standing Committee, and Sub-Committees have been held.

Several Ministerial and other Associations have held meetings in the ante-rooms, much to our gratification, and, we trust, to their satisfaction. We are pleased to find many clergymen, not unfrequently, visitors at the rooms, and hope this may long be said of them and other friends of our operations. Our tables and files are still supplied with most of the leading religious and secular papers and periodicals of the loyal States, and many of the best Reviews of this country and Britain.

The library now numbers 3,128 volumes.

Our Army Committee have done a noble work in aiding those loved ones who have left their homes to fight the battles of freedom, in the defence of our beloved flag. It was appointed Nov. 27, 1861, and has since continued in active coöperation with the Christian Commission, and to some extent with the Army Committee in other places. Many public meetings of the Commission, in connection with this Committee, have been held in this city and elsewhere, of the most interesting character, as evinced by the liberal response to the touching and eloquent appeals of delegates. At the large annual meeting, the very liberal sum of three thousand dollars was collected. By the joint action of the resident members of the Commission here, and this Committee, seventy-four delegates have been appointed, whose services have been voluntarily given to minister to the self-sacrificing and heroic defenders of our country on the battle-field, in the camps, and in hospitals.

Of the books, tracts, and papers which have been forwarded for circulation by the Committee, the following is a part:—

170,800 Christian Banners,	128,522 Tract Journals,
12,500 Soldiers' Books,	8,000 Parish Visitors,
147,000 pages of Tracts,	34,000 Hymn Books,
3,266 Prayer Books.	

Of the soldiers' books, many have been published under the immediate direction of the Committee, of a character having special adaptation to the wants and convenience of the soldier's life.

SALEM, by S. A. D. Sheppard.

We have our reading-rooms, with a good library attached, to which all the young men of our city are always welcome. Here many pleasant hours

are spent either in perusing the secular or religious publications of the day, or in familiar social intercourse.

•We wish that we might report a great increase in our numbers, but the number of our young men has been very considerably diminished by the calls of our country upon us. We trust, however, that we have not gone backward at all, and perhaps in some respects we are stronger, and our hearts more firmly knit together than ever before in our short history of something over five years.

The most prominent feature of our labors has been the work of our Army Committee, in connection with the Christian Commission. The well-known and still more well-beloved President of that noble institution, George H. Stuart, Esq., of Philadelphia, with several of his fellow-workers, visited us something over a year ago, and the ball which they then set in motion has been rolling onward, still onward, to the present time.

The head-quarters of the Committee are in a very central part of the city, and day after day they are constantly receiving contributions, in the form of money or of stores, which are duly forwarded to the Agency in Boston. In this way we have been throwing in our mite towards supplying the wants of those who have gone to relieve us of that greatest of all curses to our land, slavery. At the time of the last call for help, when Gen. Grant proposed to fight it out on the line which he had chosen as his line of battle, the Committee, after duly considering the question, decided to canvass the city, and in about one week's time we had the pleasure of counting up the subscriptions to the amount of nearly \$3,700, which was immediately forwarded to the treasurer in Boston.

But I must not forget another part of our work in which we hope we have been the means of doing some good: I mean our Mission School. We have gathered at our rooms each Sabbath, a very pleasant company of little ones, who attend no other Sabbath school, and come here to learn about Jesus and the way to heaven. It is a very pleasant, and with the blessing of Him who careth for the lambs of the flock, we hope a very useful work.

RHODE ISLAND.

PROVIDENCE, by J. W. Vernon, the *President*. *Corresponding Secretary*, Asa Lyman. It has twelve hundred members, including three hundred ladies.

BRISTOL, by J. W. Vernon. The Association has two hundred members.

NEWPORT, by W. H. Almy. *President*, Charles A. Spencer, *Corresponding Secretary*, H. H. Fay. This Association has been organized about two weeks, and contains one hundred members.

CONNECTICUT.

DANBURY, by G. B. Fenner.

The Association is one of long standing, and in the days which are among the past has been more flourishing than at the present ; but, like many others, our numbers are greatly diminished. Our numbers are small, and sometimes we are discouraged ; but, having put our hands to the plough, we must not look back. With prayer and faith in the All-wise Ruler, we strive to press on to the prize which is in the Saviour that has done so much for us.

We are striving to let the community know that we are alive, and that our desire is to promote the well-being of the young, and win them over to God. Our mode is personal, each bearing his own responsibility ; each striving to bring many to our place of enjoyment and blessing, which those know who have received such from the hand of God. When we see so much intemperance in our midst, and so many of our young men going down the stream of iniquity, regardless of anything but to drink deeper of this evil, we are many times discouraged. And then we know that we have a work to do : God says, " Why stand ye idle ? the harvest is ripe." It is this that I would present, that we do something to stay this great evil which is around us. I have thought if intemperance is so great in the towns, what must it be in such a place as this, and other cities ? Oh, how much of the presence of God we need, and how near we ought to live to the requirements of the Bible !

We have, as another inducement for young men to come into our rooms, a library consisting of eight hundred volumes, which is opened, so that all who care for reading can spend the evening with much pleasure. We have lectures from the different pastors, and the proceeds go to enlarge this library, which will be a greater inducement for many to join our ranks. Thus we hope and pray, through the year to come, we may increase in numbers and advance in the Christian life.

Our greatest work in the summer is sustaining four mission schools. These schools depend upon us for all that makes a school interesting, not only teachers, but also scholars ; and we are responsible for keeping these schools in operation. Although small in number, yet their wants are many. These schools we have sustained ever since we formed as an Association.

NEW YORK.

BROOKLYN, by S. M. Giddings.

The Association is in good condition, — out of debt, and a balance in its treasury.

The additions to membership, for the year, are ninety-one.

Our reading-room is open every day in the year (Sundays and holidays excepted) from eight A. M. to ten P. M., free to all, and is supplied with all the daily, weekly, and monthly publications of note or interest, both secular and religious. It is the only free reading-room in our city, and we estimate that at least twenty thousand persons have availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered for instruction and improvement during the past year.

Our library contains three thousand three hundred and forty volumes. A large number of the books are valuable works of reference, and are used by pastors, superintendents, and teachers, engaged in our Sabbath schools.

The total receipts, for the year, have been \$1,333.26. Expenditures \$1,292.17.

A course of sermons was delivered before the Association during the winter and spring months, by many of our most prominent clergymen. In some of the churches collections were taken up for our benefit.

We have held monthly meetings during the whole year, at which essays have been delivered and discussed.

A fair for the benefit of the Association was held in the rooms in December last, at which about \$200 was realized, while the goods remaining unsold were donated to the Sanitary Fair, held in this city soon after. We still maintain two mission schools at the County Buildings. A corps of teachers, members of the Association, go out every Sunday.

We have been largely benefited by admitting lady members, who attend our meetings and have the use of our library.

Our social meetings, held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, are largely attended, the attendance being limited only by the capacity of our rooms, as many as six hundred having been present at one time. The exercises at these meetings consist of music, both vocal and instrumental, and speaking, with refreshments and social intercourse.

We think the social element of great importance, and can recommend these social re-unions as being a great power for good, — as the members and their friends can meet, become better acquainted with each other, and with the Association.

We frequently appoint delegates to visit Associations like our own in

our vicinity, and in return receive delegates from them ; often valuable information is gained in this way.

We have sent to the Christian Commission thirty barrels and cases of clothing, stores, etc., during the year.

The Christian Commission work is now in the hands of a committee of citizens of Brooklyn (of which the Chairman of our Army and Navy Committee is a member), which may account for our not having a more creditable show of army and navy work.

ELMIRA, by C. C. Hall.

The Association of Elmira was organized in July, 1858. The constituent members numbered thirty-six, all members of churches.

Its operations may be thus classified :—

I. INTELLECTUAL.

1. Upon the 1st Tuesday of every month is held a literary meeting, when essays, original and selected, are read and discussed.

2. A course of lectures has been maintained every winter, delivered by some of the best lecturers. These are open to all, and the surplus receipts are used to add to the library.

3. It has a library of five hundred choice volumes, besides commentaries, encyclopedias, gazetteers, and maps. This, too, is open to the public.

4. A reading-room, where are found fifteen daily and fifteen weekly secular newspapers, twelve weekly religious papers, one weekly magazine, one bi-monthly, seven monthly, and four quarterly journals.

II. RELIGIOUS.

1. Under its patronage, quarterly sermons are preached by ministers of different denominations, of Elmira and elsewhere. These are attended by the public.

2. A prayer-meeting is held every Tuesday evening, except the first of the month, in the rooms of the Association.

3. Sabbath schools. The city has been canvassed several times, and children gathered into the Sabbath schools. Then, eight mission schools are sustained, one of which is a colored school, having one hundred scholars.

4. A city missionary has been employed, and is to be employed again, whose labors have been very much blest.

5. When, a year ago, theatres were opened, a large number of Dr. Brainard's tract upon the theatre was purchased and judiciously distributed.

6. Work among the soldiers. In 1861 Elmira was made a depot for soldiers, and during a year, at least ten thousand soldiers were here. Bibles and Testaments were distributed to all of them who had none, and would receive them. Also small camp libraries, hymn books, tracts, and newspapers.

Last fall Elmira was made the only depot in the State ; and, of course, again large numbers of soldiers were brought here. There have been distributed to them by the Association, — donations for that purpose having been generously made by Bible societies, the Christian Commission, etc., — as follows : —

4050 English Testaments.	5 Swedish and English Testaments.
448 German “	14147 pages Tracts.
85 French “	750 Army and Navy Hymn Books.
2 Irish “	6086 Soldiers' Books.
1 Hungarian Testament.	6148 religious papers.
3 English Bibles.	901 daily — in Hospital.
1 Welch Testament.	

Most happy results followed. Intemperance and card-playing, which lamentably prevailed in the barracks, were much diminished. Religious services have been held in the barracks and the hospital, under the direction of the Association, and have done great good : —

III. BENEVOLENT.

The Association, by its Committee, has been the almoner of our citizens in ministering to the wants of the poor, personally searching out the deserving. Especially has it aided the families of soldiers. Some hundreds of dollars have thus been expended.

IV. PATRIOTIC.

Thirty-five members have joined the army, embracing one colonel, one major, two chaplains, five surgeons, five captains, and six lieutenants. One has died — killed at Antietam.

E. N. FRISBIE, *President*.

J. R. WARD, *Cor. Sec.*

NEW YORK CITY, by S. W. Stebbins, the *President*.

The New York Association has pursued its work under the favoring smiles of divine Providence.

Its library of three thousand volumes, and reading-room, well provided with the issues of the religious and secular press, have furnished mental aliment to the numbers visiting the rooms. The Committee have laid a substantial foundation for a free Theological Reference Library for the use of clergymen, Sabbath-school teachers, and others.

The monthly meetings have been generally well attended. At these members are proposed and received; an essay is read and the subject discussed; some time is devoted to mutual introduction and free conversation.

A weekly prayer-meeting is held at the Eye and Ear Infirmary, on 2d Avenue. It has exerted a marked influence for good upon the afflicted inmates. A noon-day prayer-meeting is maintained from twelve to one o'clock, at the rooms, Bible House, corner of Third Avenue and 9th Street.

Sabbath evening services have been largely attended, at which sermons have been preached before the Association, chiefly by our pastors, and collections made to further its objects.

Many young men from our own and other countries have been aided in finding employment and suitable boarding-houses. Much pecuniary and other assistance has been afforded, proving of great value to the sick and needy.

It is impossible to convey an adequate idea of the amount of labor performed by individual members of the Association in ministering to sick and wounded soldiers at hospitals and "rests" in and around the city.

Thousands of colored people, who suffered so bitterly from the terrors of mob rule which were inflicted upon the city last July, were thrown, by Providence, upon our members, for many services which secured remuneration for losses, reinstated them in their homes, and afforded counsel and encouragement to bleeding hearts.

The many thousand soldiers who came to the city in its time of peril were met in their camps, on the public squares, with the distribution of printed truth, and the holding of religious services.

The Holy Spirit has given us evidence of his blessing upon efforts to win young men to Christ. Parents have brought to us their sons earnestly requesting the watch and care of the Association. In some instances there is reason to believe that impressions made at the first interview have resulted in true conversion.

For several months past greatly increased interest has been manifested in the objects and work of the organization. The membership has been steadily enlarging, and we are anticipating a year of most earnest effort for the highest well-being of the many tens of thousands of young men in our great metropolis.

We invite members of kindred associations, wherever planted, to visit us at our rooms, and at our places of business; to correspond with us freely on all matters of interest pertaining to the great ends for which these institutions were formed.

OSWEGO, by Rev. Mason Gallagher, the *President*.

Since the commencement of the war but little has been accomplished through the instrumentality of this Association.

During the first three years of its existence a daily noon prayer-meeting was sustained. Many of its most active members enlisting, it was found impossible to continue the daily prayer-meeting; and with the cessation of this work, the vigor of the institution gradually declined until the present time, when the Association simply preserves its organization.

We have been enabled to give to our citizens a valuable course of lectures the preceding winter, which have given satisfaction, and have been liberally sustained.

We look forward to the time when an increasing interest in the cause of religion will lead Christians to revive their interest in this good work of caring for the souls of young men out of the church of Christ.

Born of the revival of 1858, with the general religious awakening, which it is ardently hoped will follow our national chastisements, we shall trust with confidence that our Association shall partake of a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and renew its work of faith and labor of love.

ROCHESTER, by Rev. Yates Hickey.

The Association was organized (2d organization) June 8, 1863. *President*, Hon. G. W. Parsons; *Corresponding Secretary*, George H. Dana.

It is managed mainly by an Executive Committee of five.

It aims to secure, —

- 1st. *The thorough acquaintance of its members.*
- 2d. *A careful watch over each other.*
- 3d. *Actual engagement in personal work for Christ in Sabbath schools, etc., etc.*

It has not been successful in lectures.

Has done a good work in the camps about the city, from which good results are known.

Has a Saturday evening prayer-meeting and a *daily* prayer-meeting.

Has raised, incidentally, about \$1500 for U. S. Christian Commission, though operating principally through a committee previously organized in the city.

Has sent two delegates to the field, and hopes to live and grow in useful labors.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WASHINGTON, by G. M. Powell, *Secretary*.

The Association numbers one hundred life-members and one hundred and fifty annual members.

Previous to the breaking out of the present rebellion, the Association spent much of its strength in the mission Sabbath-school work, and in holding other religious meetings at its rooms, and it is still doing a large amount of this kind of work.

We have built two chapels which are occupied by mission schools for children, and religious meetings for soldiers.

Since the commencement of this war our efforts have been mainly directed to supplying the spiritual and temporal wants of the brave men of the army and navy, who have been providentially thrown within our reach.

Until the beginning of the present year of the war, we have employed a clergyman, as missionary, among these men. Through the aid of a liberal gentleman in this city we now employ two; and, if the way is opened to do so, we shall still add to this force.

Besides this work of our regular missionaries, members of the Association conduct religious services from once to thrice a week at about twenty points in and around the city. The recorded result of the work of one of our missionaries, for one year is substantially as follows:—

Hopeful conversions, one hundred and thirty.

Meetings held, seven hundred and sixty-six.

No. of Testaments distributed, twenty-three thousand seven hundred and one.

No. of Hymn Books distributed, ten thousand four hundred and two.

No. of pages of Tracts distributed, one million six hundred and ninety-three thousand four hundred and sixty-one.

No. of newspapers, etc., distributed, ten thousand one hundred and seventy-three.

No. of miles travelled, two thousand nine hundred and thirty-six.

Meetings are also held at camps of teamsters, and other employees of the Quartermaster's Department. The number who have expressed a wish for prayer at these gatherings is very large. We have not been unmindful of the precious opportunity afforded in the round of these labors to perform humanitarian duties for the poor sufferers in the hospitals. An equal, and perhaps greater, amount of unwritten work has been performed, which the opening of the great record above will alone reveal.

We have been permitted to send out preachers of the Word as strong

reapers in God's golden harvest, and in the Sabbath schools to lead many of the lambs of the flock in the green pastures and beside the still waters of eternal truth; yet we have been led to feel that we were coming far short of doing our whole duty to the young men in our midst, many of whom are strangers sojourning among us for a few months or years, and for whose welfare gray-haired parents and loving friends in the northland are solicitous.

While we cordially invite these brothers to come with us and do and get good, getting in doing we would suggest to those friends at home that letters from home should encourage the absent ones to connect themselves with our Associations in this and other cities. The religious press can, perhaps, do a good work in calling the attention of parents and friends to this subject.

"What to do for the young men in our midst, and how to do it," has been the subject of discussion in remarks and essays in many of our meetings during the past year. In these discussions two points have been arrived at conclusively: 1st. That to attain the greatest usefulness in *this* field an Association should *possess*, in fee-simple, a convenient, ATTRACTIVE, and commodious establishment. 2d. That as in no other way can we *get* so much good, as in *doing* good, we should strive to induce the membership of the Association to become *actively* engaged in its Sabbath-school and missionary enterprises, and in regular religious and social meetings. We feel the need of more meetings of the latter kind, and we maintain a very interesting weekly prayer-meeting in addition to two monthly meetings.

ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO, by S. M. Hunt. *President*, E. S. Wells; *Corresponding Secretary*, H. W. Adams.

Let a few facts speak for themselves about the necessity for Christian labor in our city.

First, out of a population of 170,000, a liberal estimate gives us 45,000 as the whole number attending worship on the Sabbath. Of this number there are Protestant evangelical, 25,000; unevangelical, 5,000; Catholic, 15,000; leaving the number of adults who do not attend any place of worship, and may therefore be counted subjects of missionary labor, either at large or by personal effort, 80,000.

There are also among this population of 170,000 about 45,000 children, of which about 18,000 are in Protestant Sabbath schools, and in Catholic Sabbath schools about 7,000, showing the number of 20,000 children who are growing up in comparative ignorance of the Word of God and the way of life.

Permit us now to give you the results of our labors for the past year, in the different kinds of work in which we are engaged. Our reading-room has been furnished during the year with the leading religious papers of the land, with magazines, and, for most of the year, with our library, which, being very small, — only about 400 volumes, — was not very attractive; and upon an earnest call from the Christian Commission, at Memphis, to donate the library to them, we did so. Our reading-room has been much too small, and is often very much crowded. It is estimated that over ten thousand persons have visited it during the year.

THE DAILY UNION MEETING has been continued during the year, and with greater success than ever before. The rooms have been well filled, and often crowded. From the report of the Devotional Committee, we learn that the meetings were held on three hundred and five days, and on one hundred and thirty-seven days were led by clergymen, and the balance by laymen. The attendance of clergymen has been 1,418, averaging between four and five each day; 1,667 requests for prayer have been made, and, as an illustration of the influence of the meeting and for the encouragement of those who pray, one brother gives from his diary the following answers to prayer: Of the persons presented by him for prayers since January 1st, 1864, twenty-six male, twenty-one female adults, and eight children have been converted to God, making a total of fifty-five in three and one-half months, of cases presented by one of the many who attend this delightful place.

SATURDAY EVENING MEETINGS. — Saturday evening meetings have never been more prosperous, nor have those who sustain them ever had more cause to rejoice at the manifestations of God's presence than during the past year.

MISSION SABBATH SCHOOLS. — The Mission Sabbath Schools, under the auspices of the Association, are the Illinois Street Union Mission and West Market Mission. In connection with the former, two weekly prayer-meetings have been held, and greatly blessed. Very few of our churches have reported a larger number of conversions than this school. Thirty-five during the past year, and preceding that, upwards of seventy children from this school had joined the various churches of the city. Seventy-three have gone out from this school to join the armies of the Union, and many more, possessed of the true missionary spirit, have scattered through the country and founded other schools.

THE NEW BUILDING ON ILLINOIS STREET. — A few months since the friends of this enterprise determined to erect a new building, better adapted to the wants of the school, which should meet the demand for a *poor man's church* in that part of the city. Such a house is now completed,

at an expense of \$20,000. It is located on Illinois Street, just east of Wells; 50 by 100 feet in dimensions. We can only say of the edifice and all its apartments and appointments, that it is the centre of charms. The building is of brick, and the inner surface of its walls lined in imitation of blocks of granite.

Since the completion of the new building, religious services have been held every evening except Saturday, and many have been led to Jesus. About \$20,000 was raised by subscription, and paid for this house of worship.

THE WEST MARKET MISSION came under the care of the Association about one year ago. It began with one hundred children, and increased to an attendance of two hundred and fifty, comprising some four hundred different children.

We have prayer-meetings, one following the school, lasting fifteen minutes, and one on Sabbath evenings. In addition to these religious meetings there have also been held a series of

SPECIAL MEETINGS, commencing in our rooms on the second week in January, and continuing every evening during the week until the completion of the building for the Illinois Street Union Mission, when they were transferred, and are still held every evening. The services have been greatly blessed in the conversion of many lambs. Most of our city pastors have assisted in the services. Thirty meetings have also been held in Camp Douglas with the soldiers, when the camp was closed to us. It is now being opened again, and we are going to recommence. The other meetings to reach young men have been our Sociables, held on the third Monday evening of eight of the twelve months of the year. They have been well attended, and have proved very successful in enabling young men, strangers visiting our city, to become acquainted with those who would try to benefit them.

Our committee to introduce strangers to places of worship, find suitable boarding-places, etc., have rendered efficient service.

The committee to visit the sick have had much labor to perform, and have done well, and have had sometimes the mournful duty of collecting funds and burying the dead of some who came to die among strangers.

The committee to procure employment for young men report that, during the year, twelve have labored in the committee. The work is divided into four classes, under sub-committees, viz., men, boys, women, and girls. Over 1,000 applications for employment have been made, and in nearly two-thirds of the cases with success.

From the report of the Relief Committee we find the amount collected for this purpose, \$13,457.79.

Expended, as follows : Wood and coal, \$7,250 ; provisions, groceries, etc., \$3,720 ; distributed at the rooms, \$549 ; sundry expenses, consisting of rent, wages of men employed, expense of horse and dray, and cartage of wood and coal, \$925. Total, \$12,444.00, leaving a balance on hand of \$1,013.79. The distribution embraces the following items : Number of applications for relief granted, 6,475 ; number of loads of coal, 1,720 ; number of loads of wood, 1,150. The items of this work would fill a volume. Nearly 200 have been helped in a day, and nearly 80 loads of coal were delivered on a Sabbath, so great was the necessity. In addition to the services of a drayman and two distributing clerks, from three to six members of the Association have been constantly laboring, often during the night, in this service without compensation.

TRACT WORK. — The report of the Superintendent shows that out of 50 districts 26 are regularly visited by 230 visitors, who have distributed during the year 200,000 pages English tracts, 75,000 pages foreign tracts, 25,000 copies of the *American Messenger*, and over 20,000 other religious papers, and donated 200 Testaments and 40 Bibles. Over 1,500 cases of want were reported by these visitors, while the cases of interest in visiting the sick, attending funerals, etc., are without number, besides the hundreds gathered into Sabbath schools and churches, and very many hopefully converted to God.

ARMY WORK reported by the committee, working in connection with the United States Christian Commission, would embrace more room than we can give. A brief synopsis shows the total of cash contributions to be over \$9,000 ; nearly 300 boxes of stores, valued at \$4,600 ; of book publications, etc., \$5,300 ; in addition to this we have sent to the field 75 delegates, whose services donated by them would equal in amount \$7,250. These have been passed by our railroad companies, whose donations, with the telegraph facilities enjoyed, equal \$525. Total of contributions \$27,675.

The distribution embraces : Copies of hymn and psalm books, 47,000 ; knapsacks, 54,000 ; bound volumes, 650 ; Testaments and Bibles, 12,400 ; magazines, etc., 1,200 ; religious newspapers, 150,000 ; pages of religious tracts, nearly 900,000.

Our rooms have become the central point in which the Union religious and benevolent societies of our city and the Northwest meet.

LOUISIANA.

NEW ORLEANS. *President*, Hon. R. K. Howell ; *Corresponding Secretary*, Joseph W. Davis.

This Association has recently been revived, and has taken rooms under

the St. Charles Hotel. A large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled to witness the ceremony of dedicating the room.

By a wise arrangement with the few remaining members of the former Association, whose operations had ceased, the library and furniture of the old Association have been purchased by the new one, and are thus again applied to the purpose for which they were originally intended.

The Association already numbers more than fifty members, including some who are old residents, and others who have settled in New Orleans since its reoccupation by the United States forces. Among them are some of the most promising young merchants of the city.

TENNESSEE.

MEMPHIS. This Association is now in full operation. *President*, K. A. Burnell; *Corresponding Secretary*, F. A. Mason.

A daily prayer-meeting, held at 3 P. M. for a half hour, has been maintained for six months.

No American city has a more inviting field for the largest and most untiring Christian benevolence. Earnestly do we beg of every one of the Saviour's friends to plead with God that our Association may win many precious souls.

A hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. M. Gallagher, of Oswego, N. Y.

The Committee of Arrangements reported,—

1. That the morning session close at 12½ o'clock, and that the afternoon session commence at 3 o'clock.
2. That the meeting, this evening, be held in the Old South Church, commencing at 7½ o'clock.
3. That the Convention accept the invitation of the Boston Association to an excursion in the harbor to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The report was accepted, and its recommendations adopted.

S. W. Stebbins, from the Committee on Devotional Exercises, recommended that a half hour be spent in prayer at the commencement of the afternoon session,

exercises to be conducted by Deacon Wm. J. King, of Providence, R. I.

Also, that a prayer-meeting be held at the rooms of the Boston Association at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning, to be led by Rev. C. P. Lyford, of Philadelphia, Pa.

The recommendations were adopted.

The Committee on Business reported as follows:—

The Committee recommend, —

1. That the Rev. H. C. Potter, of Troy, be invited to read an essay upon "The Work of Young Men's Christian Association," at 3½ p. m.; and that an essay on "Prayer in its Relations to the Work of Young Men's Christian Associations," be read by Austin Abbott, of New York, to-morrow afternoon; and that, following each essay, an opportunity be given for remarks.

2. That a public meeting be held this evening at the Old South Church, and that

Cephas Brainard, *New York*; Rev. John Alexander, *Montreal*; Rev. C. P. Lyford, *Philadelphia*; Rev. H. C. Potter, *Troy*; Rev. R. J. Parvin, *Philadelphia*; O. Vincent Coffin, *Brooklyn*, be invited to address the Convention upon the "Work of Young Men's Christian Associations."

The recommendations were adopted, and the report ordered to be placed on file. Hearing reports was then resumed.

L. Suits, Troy, N. Y., and W. E. Abbott, Syracuse, N. Y., presented statements as to the work of their respective Associations.

The following communication was presented by Thomas Hobson, of Montreal:—

"The Doncaster (England) Young Men's Christian Association desire that Thomas Hobson, Vice-President of one of the Associations, will convey to his brethren in America our congratulations, expressions of Christian sympathy and good-will, and our deep interest in their Associations and all similar institutions."

Reports were then made by Rev. J. D. Fulton, for Albany, N. Y., and J. Hilton, for Belvidere, N. J.

The Committee on Associations reported as follows :

“ Your Committee regret that all reports hitherto presented to the Convention have not been submitted in writing ; and would recommend that future reports from Associations made to this Convention be made in writing. Also that a synopsis of the reports already made be written out for the use of this Convention.

The following communication was received and read by the President :—

GENERAL THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY, BOSTON, }
41 Tremont St., June 2, 1864. }

To JOSEPH A. POND, Esq., *President, &c.*

Be so good as to extend an invitation, from the Directors of the General Theological Library, to the delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations to visit their library and reading room, at 41 Tremont Street, at such time or times as may suit their convenience.

Yours very truly,

LUTHER FARNHAM,
Secretary G. T. L.

The communication was referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

The Convention was then briefly addressed by Rev. A. A. Willits, of Brooklyn, N. Y., with earnestness and eloquence.

A hymn was sung, and the Convention adjourned, with prayer and benediction by Rev. Mr. Willits.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met at 3 o'clock, and engaged in devotional exercises led by Dea. William J. King, Providence, R. I.

Remarks were made by Dr. Kirk, S. W. Stebbins, and others.

The business of the Convention was resumed at 3½ P. M., the President in the chair.

J. R. Dougall, of Montreal, Canada East, moved that the suggestion of the Committee on Associations be adopted by the Convention; that is to say, "That all reports from Associations hereafter made to the Convention be reduced to writing, and that reports already made be written in a condensed form, and given to the chairman of the Committee on Associations." Carried.

On motion, the communication from the Doncaster (England) Association was referred to the Committee on International Subjects.

M. Gallagher, of Oswego, N. Y., offered the following:

Resolved, That the General Secretary of this body, or some other officer, be appointed to visit the several Young Men's Christian Associations in this land, for the purpose of conveying information in regard to the general cause; of stirring up the pure minds of the brethren by way of remembrance, thereby to increase the power and efficiency of the various members of these bodies."

Referred to the Committee on Associations.

Y. Hickey, of Rochester, moved that a committee of three be appointed to consider the feasibility of the improvement of literature on railroads. Carried.

The following persons were appointed: —

Yates Hickey, *Rochester, N. Y.*; George H. Stuart, *Philadelphia, Pa.*; William C. Clegg, *Troy, N. Y.*

The Committee on the State of the Country reported as follows: —

Whereas, This Convention meets while the land is yet involved in the strife of civil war, and

Whereas, The United States government most justly deserves the warmest sympathies, the earnest prayers, and the active labors in its behalf of all true and loyal men, and may especially look for such from all Christian men, therefore

Resolved, That this Convention hereby records its abhorrence of the great rebellion which, rising and warring against the constituted authorities of the land, has involved us in so terrible a conflict, and is accountable,

as we believe, for all the blood which has been shed or which may yet be shed on account of it.

Resolved, That we acknowledge with thankfulness to God the blessings already vouchsafed to our armies, and that we recognize, in the processes by which a complete victory has so long been withheld from us, and in the painful discipline to which our land has been subjected, the overruling hand of our God, whose punishment of us is less than our sins deserve, whilst his mercies toward us cannot be numbered.

Resolved, That we express our sense of indebtedness, greater than we can ever repay, to the officers and men of our army and navy for the cheerful fortitude with which they have endured hardship and suffering, and the bravery with which they have done and are doing their duty as defenders of our country.

Resolved, That we shall hail with gladness the day when human slavery, the essential source of our national trials, shall no longer be known in our land, and that we heartily approve of the use by the Government of every authorized means for the lasting extermination of this great evil.

THOMAS O. LINCOLN,	} <i>Committee.</i>
ROBERT J. PARVIN,	
EDWARD G. TILESTON,	
FRANK W. BALLARD,	

S. W. Stebbins moved the adoption of the resolutions as reported by the Committee. After remarks by C. Brainard, D. A. Sutton, P. B. Simons, W. Edsall, and J. B. Bonar, the motion was carried.

P. B. Simons moved that a copy of the resolutions be sent to the President of the United States and the Governor of Massachusetts. Carried.

An essay was then read by Rev. H. C. Potter.

MR. POTTER'S ESSAY.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS: WHAT IS THEIR WORK, AND HOW SHALL THEY PERFORM IT?

There are very few undertakings, however simple in their nature or single in their purpose, — in the prosecution of which, especially if they are continuous undertakings, requiring unremitting and long-protracted effort, we do not need, from time to time, to refresh our memories and renew our zeal by a reference to their primary object, — to reawaken our flagging ardor and correct our wandering and often ill-directed endeavors, by recalling to mind an original design.

At sea, when we have been buffeted by adverse winds and hindered and impeded by fogs and storms, we welcome the sunshine first of all, because we can, by its help, determine our position and learn how far we have drifted from our course. "My men," said a great commander on the eve of an eventful struggle, "before you go into action, I want you to remember *for whom you are about to strike*, and the single end which, by this struggle, you aim to achieve." Some such work as this, it would seem, is appropriate, as we reassemble in this our annual convention. These gatherings ought supremely to be employed as a means of bringing us back to our first principles, — of recalling to us the mission of Young Men's Christian Associations, and of suggesting to us the question, whether these various brotherhoods, in which, all over the land, we have banded ourselves together, are doing the work which, under God, they were designed to do.

This brings me at once to the single topic with which I have been asked to deal, — Young Men's Christian Associations, and their Work: What is it?

I think the title under which we have organized ourselves ought to help us here, and so ought to correct, at the outset, an error which the experience of many of us has doubtless demonstrated to be a very common one. Ours is not merely a Christian Young Men's Association: that is, it is not a religious body, of the nature of a church, all of whose members must have subscribed to certain standards, and stand in a certain open relation to other Christian people; but it is an association of young men for a Christian purpose, not merely toward others, but toward themselves. In other words, if I understand the design of our brotherhood aright, it does not undertake to look after Christian young men so much as to do a Christian work of watchfulness and care and loving and brotherly regard among all young men, even though they are ever so remote from recognized association with Christian churches or Christian people. And therefore it seeks to gather within its sheltering embrace all, of whatever remoteness from Christian privileges or Christian habits, upon whom it can lay its hand. The history of the origin of Young Men's Christian Associations here and abroad will show, I think, if we are careful to trace it back, that the organization grew out of a need long felt for some instrumentality, especially in cities, for the shelter and help of young men, — above all for the care and succor of young men separated from their homes, and the sacred and protecting influences which a home affords. Standing at the head of any of our great thoroughfares, and watching the course of our youth, beholding how easily they were enticed into questionable amusements, corrupting companionships, and so finally into godless and suicidal habits, the heart of more than one anxious friend of Christ and of his country has felt constrained to cry out, "How shall we save our young men?" It was to

meet the need which that question at once suggested, that these Associations began to be. It was felt that the union of young men in some common open organization, hedged about by no stringent rules or tests of membership, might be a means, first of all, of gaining a hold upon young men who thus might be led on to the sheltering care of Christ's church, and then of organizing these young men themselves in a constant work of love and mercy towards others still without. But all along, through the history of our Christian Associations as they have come into existence in this country or abroad, it seems plain that the aim with which they were everywhere begun was simply this, to rescue and care for young men.

I do not propose to inquire just how far we have, here and there, drifted away from this original object; but I think the fact is indisputable. A great many worthy enterprises, now in behalf of ignorant multitudes about us, and now for suffering ones farther away from us, have more or less largely engaged our thoughts and absorbed our efforts. Do I need to say how fully persuaded I am that these good works have been thoroughly good, and, as I doubt not, have been owned and blessed of God? Results at which we must all rejoice, are too plain here to be misunderstood or explained away. But all the while the original purpose and covenant of this Association remains and binds us. If, with the young chaplain who, arguing with the Duke of Wellington against foreign missions, on account of the superior claims of those nearer home, we are tempted to plead for some other work as more urgent than that for which we were organized, we are at once confronted with the great General's reply:—"Sir, follow your orders! Your commission reads, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' " Even so our commission is to "Run and stop that young man,"—that one, whoever he may be, who, even as we sit here, is in so many cities, from out so many shops and stores and factories, gradually sliding into habits and companionship which will otherwise never let go their hold until their victim is hopelessly ruined. Is there no room for this work still? Has war, or any other influence, so worked upon us that our young men are no longer in danger? Are there no multitudes concerning whom it still behooves to be anxious? Are our counting-rooms, our warehouses, our hotels and boarding-houses deserted? Is there no longer a steady tide setting ceaselessly toward our great cities, and demanding some constant and loving and vigilant hand to meet and lay hold upon the unformed youth whom it brings to us? You can answer these questions as well as I. Notwithstanding those duties which may invite us on remoter and more eventful fields, there is still a work to be done at home. Picture to yourselves, for a moment, the perils of a youth in a great metropolis like this! The duties of the day are over. The bustle and worry of business at length are stilled, and the young man whom they have occu-

pied turns his steps to what he *calls* his home. As he sits in his solitary chamber the sounds of distant merriment, the lights of happy homes, the glare of gay and enticing halls of amusement, at once depress and allure him. Where is his home-circle? Ah, in some simple dwelling among the hills. Even now a mother's prayers are following him, a father's anxiety and love reaching out to shelter him! But in spite of either he must face the dangers which threaten him, and roll back the temptations which entice him, alone. Is it any wonder, that so often the most faithful training which a Christian home can give, the best resolutions, the sternest struggles with the world's allurements, prove ineffectual? It is appalling to consider how many of the flower of our young men in towns and cities have been ruined for want of some constant, affectionate, thoughtful care which shall seek them out in their loneliness and exposure, and fling about them the blessed influences of Christian companionship and Christian sympathy. Brethren, the sacrifice is too costly to be made needlessly or carelessly! If there be anything which we *can* do, surely we ought to do it, and do it with our might!

As to the precise instrumentalities which ought to be employed by Young Men's Christian Associations, in behalf of young men, it is not easy to speak with positiveness. What will suit the needs of one community may not meet the exigencies of another. Any machinery, however, will be incomplete which does not take in the *whole man*;—which does not recognize all the various needs of a youth in a great city, and seek to meet and answer them. Who of us cannot appreciate those wants as they press upon many a lonely young heart all about us! There is a craving for congenial society, for healthful recreation, for books, for something which shall recall the precious fragrance of home, above all, for sympathy, however and wherever it may be expressed. How much our Young Men's Christian Associations can do towards meeting these wants it does not belong to any one person, perhaps, precisely to determine. But I think it will be acknowledged that we have not done all that can be done when we have merely furnished a reading-room, with a janitor and a book of membership, and then have sat down to wait for young men to come in and join us. If ever that gracious and loving compulsion, which the gospel exercises when it goes forth into the highways and hedges compelling men to come in, was called for, surely it is called for in connection with the work of our Christian Associations! Every instrumentality which can possibly be employed ought to be pressed into the service, and scarce any instrumentality ought to be considered too sacred or too secular, if by any means, we can save our youth! Far more than we have done, we want to enlist the sympathy and coöperation of all Christian people. The fathers and mothers of our households in cities,

who understand, themselves, the perils of young men ought to be brought, somehow or other, to see how great a work they can do in behalf of unbefriended young men. If the many homes among us which are now guarded with such jealous care from the intrusion of stranger feet, could only be made to open somewhat more easily to other demands than those furnished by the strict etiquette of social discriminations, there can be little doubt that multitudes of young men, who now seek other and most perilous companionships, would gladly avail themselves of their kindly welcome, and so, ere long, gather about them a circle of sheltering influences which would make it far harder for them, than at present, to go utterly astray. If our Associations would make it a question how much they can do to afford healthful, mental, and perhaps physical recreation, what machinery they can put in operation to seek out isolated and friendless young men, and introduce them to Christian men and women, to furnish them with boarding-houses where the influences shall not be injurious and deteriorating, to give them employment for their evenings, and, above all, to bring them under the care of Christian ministers and Christian churches, there can be little doubt that the brightest and happiest results would soon become apparent. In some of these respects the Association, whose guests we now are, affords to sister Associations elsewhere a praiseworthy and inspiring example, and it is to be hoped that one result of this annual gathering in Boston will be to carry away with us some of the wise and successful methods by means of which the Young Men's Christian Association in this city has done its work.

But whatever our methods, we want to carry always in our hearts a prevailing conviction of the purpose of our labors, — we are to take care of young men. Of course we are not shut up to any one field of labor. Not alone here, at home, but wherever our sons and brothers are to be found, there we are to follow them. In camps and hospitals, as well as in shops and counting-rooms, they are to-day claiming our care. We shall be wise and equitable only as we let our work at home and abroad go hand in hand. But let us see to it that we neglect neither. There are countless undertakings in which we may, if we choose, employ ourselves, — all of them, doubtless, having some good and desirable end in view. But the question for Young Men's Christian Associations ought surely to be this: How can most be done for our young men? Happy shall we be, if, by God's blessing upon our poor endeavors, we can help save our youth, and in these anxious and eventful hours raise up for the defence of truth and freedom, and the cause of Christ, a mighty and resistless host of regenerate and Christian young men.

At the conclusion of Mr. Potter's essay, a hymn was

sung and Rev. Dr. William Hague, of Boston, Mass., offered prayer.

Geo. H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, Pa., offered the following order, which was adopted with great enthusiasm:—

That the essay of Mr. Potter be adopted, printed, and circulated throughout the land; and that our most earnest and heart-felt thanks be tendered to our Brother Potter, for the able and thoroughly Christian manner in which the paper has been prepared.

Mr. Stuart expressed great satisfaction at the character of the essay, which he said was the best of the kind he had ever heard; and he spoke earnestly in favor of his motion.

F. W. Smith, of Boston, Mass., cited the origin of the Association in Boston, as an illustration of the essay; and moved to append to Mr. Potter's essay a statement of the methods usually adopted by Y. M. C. Associations for reaching and benefiting young men. Carried.

Charles Demond, of Boston, Mass., who was one of the first founders of the Association, in Boston, spoke of a time of revival when the Association put a notice in the papers requesting parties in the country who were desirous that their sons or friends in the city should be asked to attend the prayer-meetings, should drop a note to his box in the post-office, he being President that year. He spoke of the interest with which he had opened many letters every morning, and assigned to different members the task of visiting the parties who were therein named. Many of these were in the higher walks of life, while others occupied places into which he scarcely dared to send a young man. These visits, backed up by the message from home, were almost invariably well received, and were frequently productive of much good.

Rev. J. D. Fulton, of Boston, Mass., said this work

was very far from being done in Boston. He related some incidents connected with his personal efforts to prove his assertion. Christian young men must, when they see a drunken man, take him home; when they hear a man swear, reprove him; and when they see gambling going on, use means to put a stop to it.

Rev. Chas. P. Lyford, of Philadelphia, Pa., addressed the Convention, giving very affecting reminiscences of his early life.

After singing, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Hague, and the Convention adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

A public meeting was held in the Old South Church at seven and one-half o'clock, the President in the chair.

The attendance was large, including many ladies.

The exercises commenced with a voluntary on the organ, and singing the anthem "Bow down thine ear, O Lord," by the excellent quartet choir of the church.

Rev. O. T. Walker, of Boston, Mass., offered prayer.

Rev. Jacob M. Manning, one of the pastors of the Old South Church, was then presented to the Convention.

He said it gave him great pleasure to welcome within the walls of the Old South Church the Christian young men of the country. He thought there was a voice in its walls and timbers. Whatever political changes may occur in the world, they were here reminded that there was another kingdom not of this world, a government without end. This church was full of holy memories, and its walls should speak with more than human voices. The idea of permanency came before the mind in this sanctuary, founded as it was in the colonial period; for while kingdoms and dynasties had risen and fallen, this sanctuary had continued on, generation after generation.

It did us good to sit beneath the shadow of this rock in a weary land. Here it stood, founded on the rock of ages, and its voice was that of God telling of that kingdom that should outlast all other kingdoms. The

rains might beat, and the floods rage, but the ark of God ever floated securely on the waves.

Near yonder door, David Brainerd was accustomed to worship when he visited the city ; and the last time he ever participated in the solemn sacrament of the holy supper was here, where, though his body be absent, his spirit speaks to us yet. On that other side the parents of Benjamin Franklin sat, and brought with them, from their neighboring home, the boy who was to become so illustrious in our history.

In the broad aisle, where Mr. E. S. Tobey now sits, was the John Hancock pew ; his whose name stood out so boldly on the rolls of our patriotic history. This old church has been called the sanctuary of freedom, and this church, to-day, is still true to the principles of the Revolution.

To all these memories it was his privilege to welcome his friends of these Christian Associations, and he would ask them, when they went to their homes, to tell that they spent one evening in the house where David Brainerd worshipped, and where the noblest divines of our history, early and late, have often raised their voices in the services of the sanctuary, or on other and equally useful occasions.

On a day when these aisles were guarded with British bayonets, and these doors held by British guards, through that window behind the pulpit, now covered with red drapery, climbed from the neighboring alley into this desk, the fearless Joseph Warren, and, in the teeth and before the angry eyes of the soldiers, preached defiantly the gospel of freedom.

When these delegates return to their homes, let them tell their comrades they have seen the pulpit whence Warren spoke those words that roused the world to arms. Tell them they have been where John Hancock worshipped, and where James Otis, John Adams, and kindred souls lifted up their voices in behalf of freedom.

Let them go home and tell their friends they have seen this historic house, which, dismantled in the time of the Revolution, was the rendezvous of the British soldiers. They changed it into a circus ; and around its inner walls the horse and his rider were wont to pirouette ; cart-loads of dirt were distributed over the floor that the British cavalry horses might exercise ; near the south door was the bar they were trained to leap ; the galleries and steeple were taken down and put into the stove, and lighted with kindlings taken out of the pastor's valuable library. Tell them that this old house still stands, as the tabernacle of God always stands, unchangeable through ages, as likely to remain for three centuries to come as for the century past.

Herein we may recognize a symbol of the permanence of free institutions, and of gospel institutions, and an earnest that God will be with

us in the future. What we want is young men worthy of their destiny. We want those who would not be scared by slight difficulties. Our valiant Lieut.-Gen. Grant has given a fine example to the young men of this time; going at this great rebellion, to use it up, just as calmly and gently as the workman would take his axe and saw to cut up wood. Imitate his noble character. It was needed in the church; already it has been caught by the Army of the Potomac, and made them invincible; and it should be infused into the hearts of all our young men, into all hearts, that the institutions founded by our fathers, at so much cost, may be reestablished on firmer foundations.

A few weeks ago he met a wounded soldier from the Potomac army. In the country he believed there was a deeper feeling about the war than in the city. They had not the daily bulletins there to tell them of their friends. The soldier he mentioned was an example for all. He enlisted in the army at the outset, was twice wounded, and lately reenlisted for three years. His bounty amounted to \$700, and he came home and took to himself a wife. He married a poor widow with six children, gave her the \$700, went to the war again, was wounded in the battle of the "Wilderness," came home on a furlough, and is now awaiting recovery to "go back and see the thing through." This was the spirit our young men should all have, — this calm, quiet resolution to regenerate the world.

It might seem a somewhat equivocal compliment to our Canadian friends to bring them into this house made famous in the rebellion of our fathers against the British crown. But it is because we are Englishmen, with English hearts, that we are determined to put down this great pro-slavery rebellion, and save this government, to the country, to the world, and to the church of Christ.

Why did we oppose the British? Why did we fight? Not because we were averse to British rule; for we ourselves were British. We fought because there were men in the government at the time who sought to oppress us, and put a yoke on our necks we were not able to bear. We fought because we were *Englishmen*. And you, said he (alluding to the Canadian delegates), or any true Englishmen, would do the same thing, and demonstrate to all opposing elements the justice of your cause. In conclusion, he spoke of the time when all should meet in the land where love would be supreme — the land of eternal reward.

The choir sang the anthem, "How beautiful are thy dwellings!"

Cephas Brainard, of New York, then addressed the Convention as follows: —

MR. BRAINARD'S ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT, —

This afternoon a graceful and eloquent paper was read before the Convention upon the mission and special work of these Associations; and the questions were again asked, Why were they instituted? and to what particular class of Christian effort are they called? It seemed to me, however, that twelve years of active, efficient service in this country and the Canadas, in all the large cities and towns; that more than twelve years of like service in Great Britain, and on the Continent, by kindred Associations, had fully and satisfactorily answered these questions, and, that it now only remained for Christian young men everywhere, to take up and press on the work, by an instrumentality which the head of the church has owned and blessed.

Primarily, the work of these Associations is *for*, and *among* the young men who crowd our cities. These they especially aim to reach. But this work is silent and unobtrusive. None but the actors in it are aware of it. It cannot be set forth in reports, or in newspapers. We are forbidden by the very conditions which render it successful to publicly name its subjects. When an active brother in the Boston Association takes up a youthful stranger, as he steps upon the docks of your city, and introduces him to its rooms, to its members, to its meetings, to all its privileges, to its holy, purifying influences, to a place of employment where business is conducted according to the rules of a Christian morality, to a quiet and respectable home, to the pastor of a Christian church, to the blessed activities of some mission Sabbath school, and finally, by means of all this, to a place of Christian wealth and large, generous Christian labor, he cannot advertise it in your daily papers. That work must be quiet, it must remain unknown on earth, but it will be revealed, in its richness, in that day when all accounts are rendered. This is our every-day work, our great work, and it should not at any time be neglected or forgotten. Time would fail me, patience would fail you, were I to attempt to relate the illustrations of this sort of work within my own personal knowledge. I could tell you, of many now filling the most respectable positions as Christian philanthropists in our own city, who owe all they have of Christian usefulness and power to the Association in New York. And the experience of all who have been to any extent active in these Associations, is the same. In this matter God has set his seal of approval upon these organizations.

There are, however, other more general movements in which our Associations have at times engaged, in which they have been greatly blessed, to which I beg leave to advert for a moment.

The history of Union prayer-meetings is precious to the church of Christ. We all remember the delightful seasons spent in them during the winter and spring of 1857. They have not yet died out; in almost every city they live and produce fruit. We, of New York, can never forget the "Fulton Street prayer-meeting," and those which grew out of it. That renowned and blessed meeting, the first of its kind in the world, can never die out of the memory of those who love the Saviour, and shall always have its place in the history of the church. That meeting was originated by a Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of New York, and a leading member of that Committee is also a member of our delegation. Consider the long train of blessings which has marked the history of these gatherings, sum up the number of souls which, in them, have been turned from Satan to the Saviour, and tell me whether, in instituting and carrying on this class of Christian assemblages, these Associations have done anything for the honor of the Master, for the glory of His name.

None in any way acquainted with the home missionary work of the Church, for a few years past, can fail to recall "Tent Preaching" as a chief instrumentality. Almost all our clergymen have borne their share of labor in this field, and the results have been vast, indeed. From one incident judge the whole work. All here know of, many have been privileged to listen to, the eloquent and moving words of the Rev. Mr. Mingers, of Philadelphia. When tent preaching was established in that city, he was without hope and without God in the world. He learned to know and love Christ in that famous tent erected by the Philadelphia Association. From that place of his conversion he passed in due time to the position of an educated minister of Christ, he began a mission work in a place where the Saviour had not been preached, the Master owned his efforts, a large church grew up under his ministrations, a comely and convenient edifice for public worship was erected for that church, and when, finally, he was called to take up the work of the Christian Commission and the cause of Jesus among the soldiers, which he presents in such just and affecting words, he left that church edifice crowded in every part, even to the doors, with attentive anxious hearers. What say you of tent preaching? It was instituted and carried on by the Young Men's Christian Associations of America.

With the first gathering of our brothers into camps, in 1861, commenced one of the grandest philanthropic works that ever engaged the attention of Christian men, — that work now represented and performed by the U. S. Christian Commission, a work for the welfare of our soldiers, combining the sanitary and the Christian. I do not know words in which to describe it

to you that will adequately portray its breadth and grandeur. Thought even fails as we attempt to trace and to calculate its results. And yet that work, the *first* of its kind ever attempted by organized Christian effort, had its origin in our Associations. A committee formed by one represented in this Convention preached Christ in the first of the gathering camps, to the first of our marching regiments, those of Massachusetts, as they passed through New York city; that committee mingled kind nursing with Christian counsel in the hospitals of the wounded soldiers, first brought from the battle-field of Bull Run. And finally, when this work had outgrown these local organizations, and passed far beyond their reach, these Associations, in convention assembled in New York, organized the Christian Commission, which is now carrying on that magnificent enterprise. Whatever of praise can belong to instruments upon earth for the establishment of this sublime charity, is due to these Associations.

But the visible results of this mission do not stop here. One member of that first committee still continuing the representative of some of our Associations, their almoner, accompanied General Burnside to North Carolina, and there, among the wounded of Roanoke Island and Newbern, continued this philanthropic labor. While there, that earnest man, he now sits before me, established the *first* school for freedmen on this continent.

Cast your eyes over our country, and see into what these beginnings have grown; and then estimate if you can, measure if you will, the worth of these Associations to the Nation! Can you afford to let even the weakest and the smallest die?

We are not to be told that the enterprises I have mentioned might have originated with some other agency, that they would have been called into being by the Master in some other way. It is sufficient for our purpose, that those chosen were those which I have described. When we do honor to the name of John Fitch, the father of steamboat navigation, we do not inquire whether if he had not made his discovery some one else might not have done it, nor do we ever subtract aught from the admiration and gratitude which is due because of such a suggestion.

Glance along that line of bayonets which is daily gathering within smaller boundaries this atrocious rebellion of slaveholders, and circling it as with a band of steel, assuring us that its days are numbered, its end nigh! Foremost among our valiant soldiers are the members and representatives of these Associations, earnest, godly men, like Gen. James C. Rice, at once of Massachusetts and New York, whose life-blood has helped to consecrate to freedom and to God, forever, those terrible battle-fields of the Wilderness. Pass now to the rear in the line of the wounded as they are borne from the thinning ranks; look at the men who are most active and efficient in binding up the wounds of those who have fallen, pouring in oil and wine;—at

those who are most earnest and foremost in directing the eyes of the dying soldier to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world! Who are these? The representatives and active men of our Associations. Turn now to the Sunday schools of our land: Who are the active, earnest, leading, and most useful laborers in that field of Christian endeavor, most hopeful for the nation and the church? Ay, in our churches, what class of young men are always ready in every good word and work? To both questions we must render the one answer: the really devoted members of our Christian Associations. And so it is in all the great philanthropic enterprises which make glad our land; so also in all great schemes and adventures for a generous and noble secular profit and advantage. Yea, in all things that go to make up and carry on our great civilization, our young men, the members of our Associations, are the leaders among those of their class.

My brethren of the Convention, let us see to it that our gatherings in this city, and in this church of consecrated scenes and inspiring memories, are not in vain. Let us see to it that from our reviews of the history of our loved Associations, so full of the evidences of God's mercy and love; from these friendly Christian greetings; from the prospect of the whitening harvest-fields spread out so broadly before us, we draw some practical lessons, we form some practical resolves: that we take care to render this Convention largely, grandly, beneficial to ourselves and to the organizations which we represent; that we bear back to them from this mountain a spirit which shall make us all more ardent, more devoted, more constant in the work of their Master, more thoroughly consecrated to Him who is our Elder Brother and our Head.

Let me leave with you the words of Cotton Mather, — a name not unknown in this church and city, — written of associations like our own: — “The man who shall be the instrument of setting up such a society in a place, cannot comprehend unto what a long and rich train of good consequences he is become instrumental.” “And they that shall in such a society together carry on the duties of Christianity and the praises of a glorious Christ, will have in them a blessed symptom that they shall be associated in the heavenly city, and in the blessedness which shall never have an end.”

My brethren, these words are true. You believe them; I believe them. Let us, in the future, so act as to convince others that we believe them with our whole hearts.

Rev. Henry C. Potter, of Troy, N. Y., was next introduced, who spoke as follows: —

MR. POTTER'S ADDRESS.

Amid surroundings such as greet us here to-night, it would seem, Mr. President, as though nothing could be so becoming as silence. Among scenes hallowed by the sacred memories, of which we have been so eloquently reminded, surely it rather befits us to sit still (careful lest any untimely word should break the sacred spell) and drink in the inspiration of the enduring ideas and recollections, of which this sacred place is so full. In the Hartz Mountains, in Germany, amid the shadows of the morning or evening mists, the simple peasantry who roam there, sometimes see shadowy but colossal images walking along the distant heights, like majestic spirits bearing a message from another world. Some such spectacle I seem to see as, even now, looking toward yonder galleries and upon yonder pews and up to yonder pulpit, I think of the forms that once filled them and of the names that have left their imperishable fragrance within these walls. And indeed, if the shades of the great departed could come back and speak to us this evening, would they not bring with them the single summons and exhortation which, in the work in whose behalf we are gathered here to-night, we so greatly need, — I mean the summons and exhortation to *self-sacrificing endeavor*? What is there more resplendent in the characters of the Hancocks and Warrens and Franklins and Brainerds, who once worshipped here, than their sublime and unfaltering temper of unselfish devotion? Surely for us, who are enlisted in the cause of Young Men's Christian Associations, there is a preëminent fitness in gathering where anew we may be reminded of our need of the same temper. The work which we have to do, dear friends, is a work which, like that which enlisted our Revolutionary fathers, demands a willingness to surrender personal ease and endure hardness. To rescue and care for young men in these our great cities, to succor the unfortunate, to shield and support the tempted, to encourage and shelter the inexperienced and the untried, all this requires a constancy of endeavor, a resoluteness of purpose, which can only spring from a Christ-inspired spirit of self-sacrifice. And therefore, here to-night, in the presence of these representatives from so many Associations of our great brotherhood, in the presence of these friends whose faces I would fain believe are a pledge of their sympathy and interest in our common work, I would urge this as our most fitting motto, *Cheerful, unwearied self-sacrifice*.

And by everything which shall teach us that lesson, whether we find it within these walls, or elsewhere, let us rejoice to be taught. As I passed, on my way hither, through the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, I was not a little gratified to see the home-like appear-

ance of the apartments, — wearing everywhere the air of so much comfort, and having their walls adorned, here and there, with some pleasing picture to charm and delight the eye. As I looked on them I could not but wish, however, that there were one more picture hanging there, that every young man who looked on it might read its lesson and be touched by its simple yet grand significance. I mean the engraving of Millars's painting called, I think, "The Eve of St. Bartholomew." It represents a young Catholic girl and her Huguenot lover. She has just bound about his arm the white handkerchief which, worn on the morrow, will shield him from the fearful massacre of the French Protestants, which has made the 24th of August, 1572, forever memorable. Looking upon her uplifted expression of entreaty, you would think a man of stone could not resist the mighty pleading of her love. And yet he whom she would rescue, firmly yet gently resists her eager endeavor, and unties from his arm the knotted handkerchief, that he may go forth unshielded to share the common peril. Ah, what more touching or inspiring call could we have to unswerving self-sacrifice for honor, for duty, for Christ! Dear friends, in the work which we are doing those terms are synonymous. Let us rejoice, then, to own and obey our call; both we, who as young men are summoned to be active and aggressive workers, and you, who as fathers and mothers and sisters, may so greatly help and encourage us by your sympathy, your prayers, and in so many ways by your kindly and willing coöperation.

Rev. John Alexander, of Montreal, was the next speaker.

He claimed *his* right to be interested in the spot where the scenes of the Revolution had transpired, not on the ground of his descent from the "Revolutionary patriots," but because his ancestors were among those loyalists who at that time gave up their all, out of devotion to the British Crown.

But these were things of the past, and they could all meet as brothers, on the same platform, in these latter and better days. He esteemed it a privilege to be here, and he thanked the Boston Association for their welcome to the Canadian delegates. He spoke of the manifold prayers of Christians, in church and in family, that in Canada were rising constantly to God that he would look with mercy on this nation, and carry it safely through its trials.

The great object of these Associations should not be lost sight of, the benefit of young men. He rejoiced in the great labors they had accomplished in this war, but he felt also that they must still labor earnestly for the good of the young strangers who came to take up their abode amid the

evils of such cities as Boston and Montreal. His wishes were earnest for their complete success in all branches of labor in which they were engaged, assuring them that the best wishes of their Canadian brethren were with them.

He closed with a renewal of thanks for the reception extended to the Canadian delegation, and the assurance of their sympathy and prayers.

A hymn was then sung by the audience.

Rev. R. J. Parvin, of Philadelphia, Pa., next addressed the Convention : —

He thought this house would be a good place to hold a Quaker meeting, — that they might come here and sit quietly and see if the spirits of David Brainerd and John Hancock and Joseph Warren would not flit before them, speaking to them, though with silent voices. But they had not come for this purpose ; and the speaker then proceeded aptly to illustrate the patience, perseverance, and active effort required of them as members of Christian Associations, especially among the thousands of young men in the army.

He enforced the idea that the times demanded the labors of every man, and renewed sacrifices to benefit the young men of the land, the stranger, the wounded, and the suffering. He was on a stricken field where the wounded had been lying two days, and when he offered assistance to a little suffering group, he was told to go a little further on, because there were “ some fellows over there that wanted it more than we do.” That was the true spirit of self-sacrifice and endurance that should fill every heart. The young men here should go out and put their arms right around the returning soldiers ; let them want for nothing ; show them that their valor was appreciated, and so prepare the way to secure their eternal reward.

Rev. C. P. Lyford, of Philadelphia, Pa., spoke of the work of the Christian Commission as being of more importance even, and more blessed in its results, than the home-work of the Associations. He made an eloquent address in illustration of the importance of the labor that was before them, both in city and in camp.

He saw a captain yesterday in the office of Mr. Demond, who had been wounded at the Wilderness and given up as hopeless by the army surgeon, when Commission agents came along, took him in their arms, poured brandy, drop by drop, down his throat, revived him, and here he

was, home, getting well, and he was always going to sustain the Commission ; and he saw another officer on the way home who had been rescued in a similar way.

Such incidents were frequent, and often led to the conversion of the soul. Several of these incidents he related, of an intensely interesting character.

O. Vincent Coffin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was the last speaker. He adverted briefly to the importance of the *social element* as a power for good, when properly used by Young Men's Christian Associations ; and of the capacity of such Associations for promoting *Christian unity* ; but, on account of the lateness of the hour, he declined making extended remarks.

The doxology was then sung, and, at ten minutes before ten o'clock, the meeting was closed with a benediction, pronounced by Rev. J. M. Manning.

FRIDAY.

M O R N I N G .

The Convention assembled for devotional exercises at the rooms of the Boston Association, Tremont Temple, at 8 o'clock. Rev. Chas. P. Lyford, of Philadelphia, Pa., presided, reading the 93d Psalm, and making a few pertinent remarks on the nature and necessity of prayer. Prayer was offered by Rev. R. J. Parvin and other members of the Convention, a few verses were sung, and the exercises concluded with the doxology and a benediction by Rev. Dr. Evarts.

THE HARBOR EXCURSION.

At half-past eight o'clock, the Convention proceeded, in a body, to the steamer *Rose Standish*, lying at Liverpool Wharf, at the foot of Pearl Street.

This fine steamer left the wharf soon after 9 o'clock,

with nearly four hundred ladies and gentlemen aboard, and the Brigade Band. Passing along the wharves toward the Navy Yard, the boat made a circuit of the Russian squadron, the flag ship "Osliaba," Capt. Boutadoff, upon which Admiral Lessoffsky flies his "broad pennant," the corvette Vitias, Capt. Kraemer, and the steam-frigate Peresviets, Capt. Kopytoff. When abreast the first of these vessels, three hearty cheers were given, and the band played the "Russian March." The lower forerigging of the frigate was manned in reply, and the crew returned the cheers with lusty shouts. The same ceremony was repeated in passing the other vessels.

The State School-ship Massachusetts was next passed, the band playing the "Star Spangled Banner." The boys of the ship immediately manned the shrouds and gave three cheers.

The first landing-place was at Fort Independence, where the company was received by Lieut. Col. Floyd Jones, of the 19th U. S. Infantry, who commands the fortifications in Boston Harbor. The other officers of the garrison, who accompanied the visitors around the fort, were Lieut. Oscar Hagen, of the 11th Infantry (acting Adjutant); Capt. Lattimer, of the 11th; Capt. Lewis J. Bird, of the South Boston Unattached Company of Militia; and Lieut. Alden, of the same company (officers of the day).

A considerable time was spent in visiting the casemates, barracks, hospital, and other portions of the fortifications. The manner of handling heavy guns was shown. The party mounted to the ramparts, and one of the fifteen-inch guns, *en barbette*, standing in an angle, was exhibited to them. Col. Jones explained various matters relating to the piece; its weight, 50,000 pounds;

its calibre, fifteen inches; smooth bore; charge of powder, 50 pounds; range, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles for a solid shot of 425 pounds. The powder used is very coarse, and a bag of it was opened for the visitors, who carried away, as curiosities, a number of lumps, from the size of a pea to that of a hickory-nut.

The next point visited was the Boston Farm School and Home for Indigent Children, at Thompson's Island, of which corporation one of the committee of the Boston Association, Stephen G. Deblois, is a director. He, therefore, acted as host. Led by the band, the company marched to a shady grove near the house, where they found the scholars, to the number of about a hundred, seated on benches, with their juvenile brass band. After music by the Farm School Band and singing by the boys, Mr. Deblois welcomed the party to the island, and gave a brief review of the history of the school. It was established in 1814, by Boston gentlemen in Charter Street. It was incorporated in 1832. Soon after Thompson's Island, including 140 acres, was purchased from the City for \$6,000, and the institution was removed, with fifty-two boys. No boys were admitted who were vicious in any greater degree than truancy. It had graduated twelve or thirteen hundred boys, who could be found in some of the most prominent positions in social and in business life. About one hundred were in the army. In April, 1861, the Massachusetts Sixth was drummed through Baltimore by a Farm-school boy, and another shot down a "Plug Ugly" who was firing from a window. There were no copperheads on the island, and the stars and stripes were always flying. One was judge of the superior court, one a sheriff, one a well-known East India merchant. Other interesting facts were stated by the speaker.

Geo. H. Stuart was introduced to the boys, and made them a brief address, giving the career of Senator Baker, who fell at Ball's Bluff, as an instance of what a high position the poorest boy might reach.

After the exhibition of calisthenics by the boys, and music by their accomplished band, the company went through the buildings, and then returned to the boat.

Fort Winthrop and Rainsford Island, where the State Hospital is located, were now passed; also Fort Warren, where there are about two hundred rebel prisoners. This fort is also noted as the place where Mason and Slidell, the rebel commissioners, were confined.

The next place of interest was Gallop's Island, the depot for recruits and drafted men, under command of Col. Hendrickson, of the 13th Regiment. There were, on the island, about seven hundred recruits, including one hundred and fifty drafted men.

It was intended to go as far as Minot's Lighthouse, but time not permitting, after passing the "Graves" and Boston Light House, the course of the steamer was changed, and she returned to Deer Island, where the Convention had been invited to partake of a collation by the City Government.

It was about one o'clock when the boat arrived at Deer Island. Hon. Moses Kimball, the President, with the other members of the Board of Directors of the Public Institutions, were at the wharf, and invited the company to land. A procession was immediately formed under the marshalship of Major R. Sturgis, Jr., which, preceded by the band, marched to the residence of the Superintendent, in whose grounds, under the trees, an excellent collation had been provided by the celebrated city caterer, J. B. Smith.

No delay was made in surrounding the tables, and

OTIS NORCROSS, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Aldermen, called the company to order.

He said that it had been the intention of his Honor, Mayor Lincoln, to have been present, personally to receive their guests, but an engagement, made for him by the committee for entertaining the Russian officers, had compelled him to be absent. Under these circumstances, the Mayor had desired him to extend a cordial welcome to the members of the Convention. He said it afforded him great pleasure to meet the representatives of so many of the States of the country, and he was sure that all the members of such a body loved the Union, and sustained the Government in its efforts to crush the rebellion. He alluded to the labors of the Christian Commission, originated by these Associations, and concluded by renewing, in behalf of the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen, and the Common Council of Boston, a welcome to the institutions of the city.

Rev. Dr. Wm. Hague invoked a blessing, when the company at once applied themselves to the discussion of the choice repast before them. The tables were well filled and the supply ample, not only of meats and other substantials, but of the lighter descriptions—including strawberries, in profusion, salads, ice cream, pastry, coffee, etc. Not only "they did all eat and were filled," but many baskets full must have been taken up.

At the close of the feast, President Pond addressed the City Government.

He said that, with great pleasure, he fulfilled the duty accidentally devolving upon him, as its official organ, to return the grateful acknowledgments of the members of the Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces, for the polite attentions which they had received from the Municipal Authorities of the city of Boston, for the bounteous repast, of which they had just partaken, and for the very kind manner in which the honorable Chairman of the Board of Aldermen had been pleased to greet and welcome them.

He felt proud to be able to present the delegates to the government. He was glad, also, that they had come to see our New England homes; to see old Faneuil Hall, where our Hancock, our Adamses, our Webster, and Everett, and Winthrop had aroused and moved the people to deeds of

valor and patriotism ; to visit Bunker Hill, where Warren laid down his life for his country — the first distinguished martyr in the cause ; and to become familiar with the various objects of local or national and historic interest, here to be found.

To him, Boston was no new place. Having had the good fortune to be born and reared there, and for several years, to be connected with the City Government, scenes like these were not uncommon to him. The occasion was not his, nor were these honors paid to him. They rather belonged to those who were strangers. For them he would not speak, as they could speak, far better, for themselves. Only this would he say — officially, formally, yet from the bottom of his heart, he thanked them for the generous welcome which had been extended.

Geo. H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, Pa., was called for.

Mr. Stuart, in the name of the Ninth Annual Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations, expressed their grateful acknowledgments. They had expected to meet warm-hearted Christian young men, but were entirely unprepared for such a public official reception. For warm, generous hearts, give them Boston. He would like to have the conventions always meet in this city. The Young Men's Christian Associations were truly loyal. Referring to the Christian Commission, he said that in that labor of love no city had come up to the work like Boston, and he called for God's blessing to rest upon her Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and all her people. (Cheers and applause.)

A hasty examination was then made of the various institutions on the island, consisting of the Almshouse, House of Industry, House of Reformation, and a part of the House of Correction.

Subsequently, the delegates were drawn up on the green outside, with the institution for a background, and were photographed in a body, by J. A. Whipple, two plates being taken, in the second of which many of the ladies were included, who took a position on a rise of ground, back of the line.

At the landing, on the departure, J. Putnam Bradley, Esq., as one of the Board of Directors of the Institu-

tions, made an excellent parting address, expressive of his gratification at the visit of the Convention, and his hope that they would bear away pleasing remembrances of their session in Boston.

Mr. Stuart responded for the Convention, closing by calling for cheers for the stars and stripes.

The boat on the homeward stretch passed the two Russian vessels at 3 o'clock, the third, the steam frigate *Peresvertz*, Captain Kopytoff, having sailed down the harbor while the company were at Fort Independence, when the waving of handkerchiefs was interchanged. It was after 3 o'clock when Liverpool Wharf was reached, and all landed in safety.

The trip was a very pleasant one. No more lovely day ever shone upon Boston, even at this lovely season of the year. The arrangements were admirably planned, and were carried out with extraordinary precision and punctuality, by the Committee, which added much to the success of the whole affair. The company were delighted, and probably none will ever forget that charming excursion in Boston harbor.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met at 3½ o'clock, President Pond in the chair.

Prayer was offered by James D. Reid, of Rochester, New York.

The record of the proceedings of Thursday was read by Secretary Coffin, and approved.

The Committee of Arrangements reported as follows:

1. That the Convention meet to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock, in the afternoon at 3 o'clock, and in the evening at 7½ o'clock; the afternoon meeting to be held in the Tremont Temple.

2. That the Convention visit the Everett and Dwight public schools to morrow-morning, assembling for that purpose at the rooms of the Boston Association at 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ o'clock.

3. That the Convention accept the invitation of the Hon. Edward Everett, and visit the Public Library immediately after the morning session.

4. That the delegates meet at the rooms of the Boston Association on Monday next, at 9 o'clock, to visit Harvard University at Cambridge.

These recommendations were adopted.

T. S. Pycott, from the Committee on Business, reported the following recommendations:—

1. That the essay prepared by Austin Abbott, Esq., of New York, on "Prayer in its Relation to the Work of the Young Men's Christian Association" be read this afternoon, at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock.

2. That Saturday, at 11 o'clock, be assigned for the reading of an essay by Rev. D. W. Faunce, of Malden, Mass., on "Faith, in its Relation to the Work of the Young Men's Christian Association."

3. That the afternoon of Saturday be devoted to the Sunday-school work.

These recommendations were adopted.

The Committee on Business reported the following resolutions on the subject of Temperance, which were passed:—

Resolved, That this Convention recommends to the various Associations the necessity as well as the propriety of a more extended labor in behalf of the Temperance cause, in order that the great evil of intemperance may be checked as far as possible, and ultimately removed, and that the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces be requested to make use of such agencies as may seem proper for the accomplishment of this great end.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to each of the Associations represented.

D. A. Sutton, of Brooklyn, N. Y., from the committee, commonly termed the "Committee on International Affairs," submitted the following report:—

The Committee on International Affairs, to whom was referred the subject of the relations of Young Men's Christian Associations in America to those in foreign countries, with a recommendation to prepare a letter to be addressed to foreign Associations beg leave to report that they have prepared the following draft of such a letter, which is submitted for the consideration of the Convention : —

“The Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces to their sister Associations in the Old World, Greeting :

“BRETHREN BELOVED : The Ninth Annual Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces, assembled at Boston, Massachusetts, desire to extend to their brethren of similar Associations beyond the sea the right hand of Christian fellowship, an earnest of warm and loving hearts on this side the ocean, full of interest in your work, and of affection for those who are engaged in it.

“It has seemed desirable to us that we and you, who are bound together in the same brotherhood, occupied in the same work, and laboring for the same divine Master and Saviour, should come, if possible, somewhat closer together, and at least should recognize and rejoice in that oneness of faith and hope which makes us co-laborers in behalf of young men. As we look up to Him, whose banner over us is love, and behold how in Him all differences, whether of language, kindred, or country, vanish, we rejoice to remember that, as with the Apostle, writing to the church at Corinth, the Master was the same Lord, both theirs and his, so He is still the same Lord both yours and ours. In this bond, beloved, we salute you, and pray that grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ may be with you, and abound towards you more and more !

“In reassembling in this our Annual Convention, which turns, naturally, our thoughts to Young Men's Christian Associations everywhere, it has occurred to us that some definite effort ought to be made to draw closer the ties which bind us to our brethren abroad. We feel confident that, with more frequent and intimate intercourse, we might become better fitted for our common work, and far more efficient in its performance. Your experience can greatly help us ; our experience may not be without interest to you. Your fields of effort, your modes of operation, your machinery of active and aggressive achievement, of all these, it would be not merely interesting, but most instructive and encouraging, could we hear. And therefore, we would embrace the occasion now afforded us, to solicit from you such communications, reports, and other occasional papers, as

may, from time to time be issued by your Associations ; any and all of which, would, we are persuaded, be of substantial value to us in our work.

“ We would also embrace this opportunity to suggest the interchange, on the part of the Associations of the Old World and the New, of an Annual Letter, by means of which we might be mutually cheered and encouraged.

“ And as there are doubtless many who, from time to time, are coming to these shores from yours, as also occasionally those who go forth from us to you, we would still further venture to propose the employment of letters of commendation, which should introduce and commend to Young Men’s Christian Associations everywhere those who may bear them.

“ If there are any other means by which we can further our common undertaking, may we not hope that you will generously suggest them ?

“ Once more we salute you in loving and cordial regard. May God have you ever in his holy keeping ; strengthening you in all your efforts for the welfare of young men, and crowning all your labors with such success that ere long the Christian young men of all lands shall clasp hands around a redeemed and regenerated earth !

“ In behalf of the Ninth Annual Convention of the Y. M. C. Associations of the United States and British Provinces.”

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution : —

Resolved, That a copy of this letter be addressed to the various Young Men’s Christian Associations of foreign lands ; said letter to be duly signed by the President and Secretary of this Convention.

The Committee understanding that Mr. Thomas S. Pycott, a member of the Young Men’s Christian Association of Boston, Mass., proposes soon to go abroad, would also recommend the adoption of the following resolution : —

Resolved, That Mr. Thomas S. Pycott, of Boston, Mass., be and he is hereby constituted a delegate to the Young Men’s Christian Associations of Great Britain and the Continent of Europe, to act as a representative of this Convention to such Associations, and to convey to our brethren abroad the expression of our cordial and fraternal regard ; and that he is hereby commended to the affectionate confidence and Christian welcome of all to whom he may come.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DAVID A. SUTTON, Brooklyn, N. Y.,	} Committee.
JAMES B. BONAR, Montreal, C. E.,	
MASON GALLAGHER, Oswego, N. Y.,	
GEO. H. STUART, Philadelphia, Pa.,	
ROBERT BALDWIN, Toronto, C. W.,	
H. C. POTTER, Troy, N. Y.,	

The report was accepted, and the circular letter and the resolutions were adopted.

Y. Hickey, of Rochester, N. Y., from the Committee on Railroad Literature, made an informal report upon the subject of improving the quality of the literature sold upon railroads, which proposed the adoption of a plan attempted to be carried out in Illinois just before the commencement of the war, by which the control of the literature sold on railroads was to be placed under the authority of the Young Men's Christian Associations.

The report was laid on the table.

R. J. Parvin, of Philadelphia, Pa., offered the following resolution, which, after remarks, was unanimously passed:—

Resolved, That this Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces, having partaken this day of the kindly courtesies and generous hospitalities of the City of Boston, extended through his Honor the Mayor and the Aldermen of the said city, do hereby record their most cordial thanks for the attentions thus extended to them; which attentions have added not a little to the many pleasant memories which we shall carry away with us, and long gratefully cherish.

Resolved, That an attested copy of the above be sent to the Municipal authorities of Boston.

H. C. Potter, of Troy, N. Y., offered the following:—

Resolved, That the Associations of the United States desire to place upon record, on the occasion of this their Ninth Annual Convention, their unreserved confidence and sympathy with the noble and already consecrated instrumentality known as the United States Christian Commission.

Resolved, That we, the young men of the Christian Associations of the United States, hereby pledge our unswerving and unreserved devotion to this Christian agency for ameliorating the sufferings and correcting the evils of war.

Resolved, That the blessed and unparalleled religious work in the army, in progress during the past winter, is a signal and instructive token of the divine approval of the aims and methods of the work of the Commission,

and is a summons which Christian young men, least of all, can disregard, to coöperate with it in all its noble undertakings.

Adopted.

The special assignment, being the essay prepared by Austin Abbott, of New York, on "Prayer in its Relation to the Work of the Young Men's Christian Association," was then taken up. In the unavoidable absence of the writer, the essay was read by S. W. Stebbins, of New York.

MR. ABBOTT'S ESSAY.

It is within the experience of every active member of our Associations that meetings for prayer are very important means of usefulness. The young men's prayer meeting is one of the simplest, most feasible, and most useful of the methods of our work. Here the young men come together as young men, without listeners, except themselves and the great Hearer of prayer. Freedom of religious conversation, the happy absence of constraint, and a close sympathy arising from the similarity of individual joys, aspirations, and trials, make this meeting not only a scene of Christian enjoyment, but also a school for Christian education and progress.

Out of these meetings, it is believed, have grown many of the great noon prayer meetings which have become a feature of Christian society in so many cities. It is well known that in numerous places throughout our land the members of Young Men's Christian Associations have established noon-day prayer meetings; and it is perhaps equally true that if the great original of all these meetings — the Fulton Street prayer-meeting of New York — were traced back to its sources, it would be found that but for the patience, perseverance, and faith which brethren trained in the young men's prayer-meetings of the New York Association brought to the work of establishing it, that meeting might never have lived to have a name.

But it is not so much of *prayer-meetings* that the theme invites us to speak, as of Prayer, — Prayer in its Relation to Work.

Passing by other considerations, we will call attention to three reasons why prayer is all-important with reference to our work, — three ways in which the active labors of the Association are most essentially blessed by prayer.

1. PRAYER MAGNIFIES THE REAL AND ULTIMATE OBJECT OF OUR LABOR. — In prayer for the Association and its work, the mind is irresist-

ibly drawn away from the machinery, the properties, the temporalities, the incidental affairs, up to the great object for which all those details exist. We all love organization. There is an attraction in being part of an association. There is a pleasure and a consciousness of well-doing, in the mere fact of helping on the wheels of a benevolent or Christian institution. Some minds never rise above this. You will find in almost every Sabbath school a few teachers who take a conscientious pleasure in being a part of the institution, and who are very faithful with the routine of lessons; but who think very little about bringing each scholar to Christ, and how this shall be done. In every Association of ours, doubtless, there are hard-working men who are active, "Careful about many things," zealous for the Association as an institution; but beyond its existence and prosperity they have little thought. We are all prone to this. Like boys at a fire, we all love to "run with the machine." Like boys at a fire, too, we sometimes think more of the brightness of the apparatus, the vigor of the run, the brilliance of the lights, than we do about the fire we are going to fight, or the poor sufferers we hope to rescue. It is often the case that our labors to keep the machine in motion turn off our attention from the work to be done. But prayer lifts our eyes. The praying member is never a mere part of a machine. He loves the organization, but only loves it for what it helps him and others to do. While he feels the importance of all the details of affairs, he is ever impressed with the consciousness that these affairs are of no earthly consequence, except they immediately and practically serve the object of advancing the true welfare of young men in respect to religion. To labor with little prayer is inevitably to labor about trifles. Prayer lifts the soul to the height of the Great Purpose, and turns the otherwise trivial details of organization to their great and noble use.

It is when we take counsel of the Master in prayer, that we begin to enter into his love for the souls of men, and that we imbibe his spirit, and, in a measure, like him, appreciate the transcendent importance of the spiritual interests for which he labored, and which should ever be uppermost in our plans of work.

2. PRAYER IS THE MEANS AND THE PLEDGE OF EARNESTNESS. — The spirit of prayerfulness is the channel through which comes to us all our spiritual earnestness.

Men *say prayers* for many things, but they do not *pray* except they feel *need*. When the Master looks for his most earnest servants, we cannot doubt that he regards those who work in constant prayer. Worldly teachers have told us that "work is prayer;" and some ecclesiastical teachers, with equal folly, have told us that "prayer is work." The Master teaches us that the path of duty is the place for prayer; and they are the most

earnest servants who, while they labor *for* him, seek guidance and success *from* him. The habit of mind which, at every step of the work, looks up to *Him*, and draws every expectation of fruit from trust in *Him*, is essential to the most determined, persevering, and patient labor.

3. PRAYER IS THE SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE AND STRENGTH IN THE WORK. — Human impulses would never have devised the objects we labor for. Human ingenuity will never compass the results we expect. When we take counsel of ourselves alone, we are sorely put to it, what means to adopt to forward the cause. In the great Temple which we labor in building, Christ is the Architect and Master workman. We are, after all, but day laborers, — the stone layers who carry out his designs. However diligent we may be, the work makes no progress unless we seek his instructions and follow his plans. How often have we seen that when his servants have departed from the lines he has laid down, and through some notions of expediency, — to avoid some rock in the foundation or some inequality in the surface, — they have labored long at something of their own device; the result proves only a disfigurement and a laughing-stock, and must all be rejected before *his* work can go on.

The praying member of the Association is the only member who goes to Christ for instructions.

I believe that if we were to examine carefully our own experience in this respect, we should be painfully conscious of many periods of labor lost and useless, because misdirected; and misdirected because performed without constant guidance sought in prayer.

In this regard the kind of prayer which seems needed is very specific. When we see a question arising we seek wisdom to meet it, but let us also go forward in the work till we fairly are confronted by the obstacle or the doubt, whichever it may prove to be. Then, having done all that we can do, let us seek the will of the Master on that precise point.

And in more general plans for the promotion of our objects, prayer, which brings us in view of the ultimate end to be attained, brings us also to the knowledge of the means which will serve that end.

Prayer is the source of *strength* as well as of intelligence, in our work. We have no spiritual force without it. We can get together a library, a membership, and hold meetings without prayer. But it is only when prayer begins in our hearts, that we have any moral force to turn these instrumentalities to their use.

When you lean over the water's brink to save from drowning some poor fellow floundering in the stream, at the moment you stretch out your right hand to help him, you instinctively put up the other to grasp the strong hand of a companion on the bank above, or to lay hold of some immovable

tree or rock, that you may gain power to lift the sinking man. *Work* is the right hand of the Association, put forth to the succor of young men. *Prayer* is the hand of its heart, which must rise at the same moment to grasp the foot of the cross, the hand of the Master. Here only is our strength.

Prayer thus helps us to attain these advantages, — a just view of the true and ultimate object of our work ; earnestness in devotion to it ; and intelligence and strength in its prosecution.

Such prayer needs to be constant, habitual, — not a periodical observance ; but an incessant feeling, the very breath of the soul, the natural turning of the thoughts to God in every incident of life.

The prayers of a Christian are to be like the leaves of a tree. They are not fruit. However green and full of leaves be the tree, yet barren and cursed is it if it bear nothing more than leaves. But without them can be no fruit. They are the lungs of life, put forth at every point to draw sustenance from the atmosphere of heaven.

And when prayers fall off we know that the chills of winter or of death approach the heart.

T. J. Claxton, of Montreal, C. E., moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Abbott for writing, and to Mr. Stebbins for reading, the essay ; and that the paper be printed in connection with the proceedings of this Convention. Carried.

Remarks upon the subject of the essay were then made by W. W. Evarts, D. D., Chicago, Ill. ; S. W. Stebbins, N. Y. ; W. J. King, Providence, R. I. ; E. Colgate, New York.

Voted that the Convention adjourn at 5.55 o'clock ; and that speakers, during the remainder of the session, be limited to five minutes each.

Further remarks upon the essay were made by J. B. Sheppard, Philadelphia, Pa. ; O. T. Walker, Boston, Mass. ; C. C. Hall, Elmira, N. Y. ; J. H. Butler, Boston, Mass. ; I. Baker, Philadelphia, Pa.

After prayer by Dea. W. J. King, the Convention adjourned, to meet at Tremont Temple at 7.30 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention assembled in the Tremont Temple, and held a public meeting upon the work of the United States Christian Commission. The spacious edifice was crowded to excess. President Pond took the chair at 7½ o'clock.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Rollin H. Neale, D.D., of Boston, Mass.

The President briefly addressed the meeting, stating the object and its relation to the work of the Young Men's Christian Association. The Christian Commission was the natural outgrowth of these Associations, having been created and organized at a convention of Young Men's Christian Associations held in New York in November, 1861. He spoke of the magnitude and importance of this department of our work, and of what had been accomplished by the Army Committee of the Boston Association, alluding in complimentary terms to the invaluable services of its chairman, Edward S. Tobey, Esq., under whose auspices a very large amount of money and useful articles had been collected and forwarded to the army.

He then read the following letter from his Excellency Governor Andrew:—

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, }
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, June 3, 1864. }

SIR, — I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day inviting me to address the meeting of the United States Christian Commission this evening; and I regret that, having been absent from the city all day yesterday, it will not be in my power so to command my time even for a half hour this evening, as to permit me to be present at your meeting.

I beg leave to assure you of my deep interest in the design and labors of the Christian Commission, and to express the hope that all its exertions may be fruitful in good results. The gratitude of every humane and pat-

riotic heart rises daily to heaven for the tender care bestowed by so many devoted men and women upon our friends and brothers in the field, who fall victims to disease or to the casualties of war. May the choicest blessings descend on every one of these ministers of charity and religion, and may their numbers be multiplied many fold.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. ANDREW.

The hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds," was sung, after which, the Chairman of the U. S. Christian Commission, George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, Pa., proceeded to address the meeting. Mr. Stuart was received with great enthusiasm. He remarked,—

At the commencement of the rebellion there were to be found in all our large cities and towns of the North, Young Men's Christian Associations, some of which had been organized, and all of them greatly invigorated by the revival scenes of 1858, thus preparing them in a measure for the great duty of the coming war. These organizations soon found their numbers rapidly diminishing through enlistments of young men who were desirous of going forth to serve their country on the tented field. The question arose, what duty devolved upon those who remained at home? The Associations in many of the larger cities appointed Army Committees to visit the camps in their neighborhood and to hold prayer-meetings with the soldiers going forth to battle. The field of labor was found so inviting that it was deemed advisable by the Central Committee of the National Convention to call a special convention of the various Associations, with a view to interest all these organizations in labors for the soldiers and sailors of the whole country. This convention was held in the city of New York, in the month of November, 1861, and, after much prayer and deliberation, resulted in the organization of the United States Christian Commission, which was composed of twelve gentlemen, ministers and laymen, representing the various evangelical churches and the various portions of the loyal States.

Mr. Stuart congratulated the members of the Ninth Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, now in session in this city, upon the results of the Commission, and thanked God that it was ever put into their hearts thus to band together into one blessed union, one of the noblest missions the world had ever gazed upon, and this Convention representing the Young Men's Christian Associations of America.

He then proceeded at some length to explain the nature, character, and extent of the home organization of the Christian Commission. He said that here lay the evidence of the origin of the Commission. In most cases the existing organizations of the Young Men's Christian Associations formed Army Committees to coöperate with the central office of the Commission in Philadelphia; in other places branch Commissions were organized. By the harmonious and energetic action of these Army Committees and branches the home work had been carried on, and the soldier on the battle-field had been blessed with Christian help for body, mind, and soul.

Mr. Stuart then noticed the field-work of the Commission, explaining its extent and the manner in which it was conducted. Under the general direction of field agents the work in each army was carried on. The Commission had in its service only sixteen paid men, and these were superintending the labors of three hundred men in the field who had gone forth for a time from the comforts of home to share the sorrows of the humblest private, and who received as recompense and pay only the "God bless you" of the American soldier; and richer blessings or richer pay had never been given to any other set of men upon this earth. The delegates understood this, and fully appreciated the value of this their only reward. To show the economy with which the work was being conducted, Mr. Stuart said the Government gave all possible facilities for carrying on the labors to which the Commission is devoted; nearly all the railroads transport supplies and delegates free; the telegraph companies do not charge for messages; the American Bible Society had given all the Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scripture for which application had been made. All these circumstances — added to the fact, already mentioned, that the delegates of the Commission are volunteers, unpaid workers in this great vineyard of Christ — manifest the extreme economy of the whole work, and in this way all contributions made tend to the aid and comfort of the soldier. Mr. Stuart then spoke of the field in which the Commission labored, in all its relations, — the camp, the battle-ground, the fixed post, the hospital, the ship, and the prison. It was a wide, grand place of labor. The men were the relatives of all of us, — our brothers and sons and husbands, and for their wants did the noble-hearted delegates of the Commission labor. He could speak of but two places of labor among all those enumerated, the camp and the battle-field, and restrict even that topic to the Army of the Potomac. The soldiers lay in camp several months before the present campaign in Virginia, and evil influences were at work, for men could not be idle. So the Commission occupied that field in the winter months. The officers were willing that the delegates of the Commission should come and labor among them. The soldiers showed their appreciation by building fifty-four wooden chapels, which the Commission roofed over and furnished within, thus enabling the

noble band of faithful chaplains to preach Christ crucified to the men of their regiments. Fifteen tents—chapel-tents—were also constructed, a theatre and two other buildings were granted, and so they had seventy-two churches within a circuit of eighteen or twenty miles in the Army of the Potomac, where the gospel was preached every day in the week by the chaplains and the delegates, and sometimes twice or thrice a day. In these seventy-two chapels there had been held, as estimated, 10,800 public religious services during the seven months preceding the opening of the campaign, and many, even thousands of precious souls, had, through God's grace, been converted. Eternity alone will reveal the fruits of these months of winter labor. Thus it was that the Commission labored with the army in its time of rest, furnishing those little things not allowed by the Government, but especially reading-matter.

Mr. Stuart here related very many incidents of occurrences in the work of the Commission in the army, some of which had happened under his own immediate eye. The winter revival scenes of the Army of the Potomac were spoken of. The case of one young man of that army who had been one of the vilest of the vile, and who, nevertheless, was eloquent and able of mind, was related. The scenes of dissipation in New York; the, if possible, worse abandonment to sin in the army; the evening of the prayer-meeting when he staggered in from a drunken debauch; the conviction of his guilt; the agony of his night of prayer when it seemed that as he prayed his sins were concentrated together into the vision of a "sweat-board" with the pile of ill-gotten money upon it, melting away until at last it was all gone forever,—his Christian life thereafter,—all were detailed. This man was called the "Devil's Chief Engineer;" and his was one of many similar cases thus, under God, converted to the knowledge of Christ. If not another soul had been saved in all the services of the winter, still would this be a full return for all that had been expended. Mr. Stuart related many other incidents. He spoke of the fact that the Commission had not a cent in its treasury when the first of May came and the summer campaign was about to open. But the best collecting agent he ever had was an individual named Unconditional Surrender Grant. Through his help and an open presentation of the work to the people of the country, in an earnest appeal, a liberal response at once followed. During the month of May alone the receipts of the Commission, in cash, had been \$346,000. The total cash receipts of the Commission from its commencement up to June 1st, were over \$834,000; stores received, \$920,000; value of delegates' services, \$113,000; value of Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scriptures presented to our army, \$71,500; railroad facilities, \$72,000; telegraph facilities, \$16,000; number of delegates sent out, 2,100; boxes of hospital stores, 28,000; boxes sent to recent battle-fields, 3,000; Bibles,

Testaments, and Scripture portions distributed, 700,000 ; hymn and psalm books, 750,000 ; knapsack books, 2,000,000 ; weekly and monthly papers, 4,800,000 ; pages of tracts, 25,000,000 ; magazines, 200,000 ; library books, 60,000. In the field there were 55 central stations, 150 out-stations ; 11 army-wagons ; 52 horses ; and, for purposes of transportation to the Potomac army, 2 schooners and a tug-boat. The total value of the Commission's receipts from all sources, from the beginning of its work, was \$2,250,000.

Mr. Stuart then presented a detailed account of his recent visit to the Army of the Potomac, in company with Bishop McIlvaine, of Ohio. He spoke of the accommodations of the Commission at Fredericksburg ; instanced the devotion of the delegates, one of whom especially was spoken of as having replied to a suggestion to go and search for the body of his son, which was reported to be at a certain place, with an earnest negative : " My son's body and soul are safe in heaven. I cannot leave while men are suffering around me here." The scenes of burial of soldiers were spoken of, and the strange appearance among the wounded of some sons of the forest from Michigan.

The manner in which the delegates performed their work was referred to. The value of religion was most strongly evidenced by the reading of a letter from a German converted soldier in the Army of the Potomac, who for a time, while a convalescent, had acted as delegate and agent of the Commission in the German districts of Pennsylvania. The faith of the soldier in battle, his endurance under his wounds, and his joyful hope, all were presented in it.

Mr. Stuart here took occasion to exhibit to the audience a very beautiful bracelet, received in a collection-box in Brooklyn the preceding Sabbath. As an indication how liberally the people responded when the cause of the Commission was presented, he mentioned that but a day or two before, in New Haven, a gentleman, while he was passing down the aisle in a meeting, had placed in his hands a thousand-dollar 10-40 United States Bond. A beautiful quilt, the workmanship of a lady born in January, 1776, sent to Mr. Stuart to be disposed of for the benefit of the Commission, was shown.

Mr. Stuart closed with an account of the preparations the Commission is making for the next battle, and with a reference to the noble and untiring exertions of a delegate of the Commission from Philadelphia, who has been zealous and faithful from the commencement of the war on nearly every battle-field of the Army of the Potomac.

He read the following despatch just received : —

PHILADELPHIA, June 3. The Christian Commission arrangements for the care of the wounded in the battles at hand before Richmond, are complete. Another four-horse team and wagon, with every appliance, went forward yesterday for the White House. The two schooners and steam-tug are there by this time. Everything is ready at Baltimore and Fortress Monroe for pushing in our delegates and stores. About one hundred and ten delegates are now in the army and at the base with ample stores. Three hundred minute-men await our call. The generosity of Boston shall not outdo the promptness and energy of the Commission, as neither can outdo the heroism of our noble soldiers.

W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary U. S. C. C.*

Mr. Stuart's address occupied nearly two hours, the immense audience being thrilled by his earnestness and eloquence, and manifesting the warmest sympathy and admiration.

The audience arose and sang "My country, 'tis of thee," etc.

Rev. Charles P. Lyford, one of the delegates of the Commission, who, after two years of exhaustive labor in the army, had been compelled to return in order to recruit his health, was introduced, and briefly addressed the meeting.

Rev. E. N. Kirk, D.D., of Boston, who had just returned from a visit to the Army of the Potomac, was presented to the audience, but declined making any remarks on account of the lateness of the hour.

The closing hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," was then sung, and Rev. Professor Barrows, of the Theological Seminary at Andover, Mass., pronounced the benediction.

SATURDAY.

MORNING.

The members of the Convention met at the Boston Association rooms at a quarter before eight o'clock, where they took the cars for a

VISIT TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

At the Everett School for Girls, Northampton Street, they were received by Alden Speare, Esq., Chairman of the Everett District Committee, who escorted them to the upper hall and introduced them to George B. Hyde, the principal.

After singing, and very interesting exercises by the young ladies exhibiting the proficiency of the scholars, Mr. Speare made a few remarks upon the studies pursued, and specimens of writing and map-drawing were exhibited. Dr. J. T. Conklin, of the Brooklyn School Committee, said that in all his experience he had never seen a class whose record was so good as that of these fifty young ladies, and he should take pleasure in mentioning them to the Brooklyn schools he should visit next week. They were also addressed by J. D. Reid, of Rochester, N. Y., Superintendent of the great telegraph line that is, as he said, to be "Puck's girdle," and by S. W. Stebbins, of the N. Y. Association, who spoke a few Christian words on the value of the soul.

After the departure of the delegates, who passed through the various rooms of the building, Deacon W. J. King, of Providence, who remained for the purpose, made a touching address to the young ladies, and was followed by Rev. John Irwin, of Montreal, and Rev. M. Gallagher, of Oswego, N. Y.

At the Dwight School for Boys, Springfield Street, James A. Page, Esq., Principal, the delegates paid their second visit, and were much pleased with the examination of the boys. Mr. Stebbins, Deacon King, and Mr. Speare addressed the young gentlemen.

The greetings of each school were given by one of the pupils of each, to their brothers and sisters in the schools of the United States and Canada, and a Mon-

schools of the United States and Canada, and a Montreal delegate expressed the pleasure with which he would take the kindly messages to the schools of his city.

The delegates then took the cars for the Mount Vernon Church.

Upon the arrival of the delegates at the church, devotional exercises were held, conducted by Rev. John Alexander, of Montreal, C. E.

BUSINESS SESSION.

At ten and one-half o'clock the business of the Convention was resumed, President Pond in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting of Friday afternoon were read by Secretary Coffin, and approved.

Y. Hickey, from the Committee on Railway Literature, reported as follows: —

For want of time the Committee have not gone over the subject thoroughly, but have decided, briefly, to lay before the Convention a few facts.

1. It is a matter which deeply concerns the Young Men's Christian Associations to look after and try to save the *hundreds of boys and young men* engaged in this traffic, and exposed to all the temptations connected with bad books and associates.

2. Much of the literature vended is bad or worthless, and some of it the vilest; while but little of merit or value is offered.

3. General public sentiment is favorable to a change and improvement, and railroad officers generally, will favor it, if taken up in a prudent and business-like manner.

4. The way is open for the adoption of some matured plan which shall avoid all the objections of a strictly religious movement, of monopoly, speculation, and the like, — for the suppression of a large amount of objectionable reading, and the *employment of railroads and other modes of travel in behalf of mind, morals, and religion*. And it shall come to pass in the last days that "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel xii. 4.

5. A matured plan exists, one which has been approved by some of the

best men in business circles, East and West, a plan which was just beginning to have its practical application when the war broke out, and which is now available to any man, or body of men, who will set it in operation.

Years of careful study and comparison of views have been given to it. All along, the Young Men's Christian Associations have been regarded as peculiarly fitted to take an interest in, if not to manage, the movement, and it is now brought to the attention of this Convention simply as a matter of information, and with the offer to give it into your charge.

The plan contemplates that, when fairly started, the enterprise shall be wholly self-sustaining, and with an exceedingly simple agency, the expense of starting it would be small.

Much of the needful work of organization is already performed, and there is no good reason why operations should not be at once begun.

The report was accepted.

J. D. Reid, of Rochester, N. Y., offered the following resolution upon the same subject, which was adopted :—

Resolved, That this Convention regard this subject of an improvement in the literature upon our thoroughfares, in the traffic in which so many boys and young men are engaged, as coming legitimately within the sphere of labor appropriate for Young Men's Christian Associations, and that a permanent committee of nine be now appointed to take the subject in charge for one year, and be authorized to take such action as may not involve expense to the Convention, as to them shall seem best, and report their investigations and doings to the next annual Convention.

The Chair appointed the following gentlemen as the Committee on Railway Literature :—

Y. HICKEY, Rochester, N. Y. ; L. MILLIS, Boston, Mass. ; GEORGE H. STUART, Philadelphia, Pa. ; F. S. WHITE, Bennington, Vt. ; J. STOKES, Jr., and W. F. LEE, New York ; J. D. REID, Rochester, N. Y. ; J. BACON, San Francisco, Cal. ; F. E. GRAFTON, Montreal, C. E. ; H. D. PENFIELD, Chicago, Ill.

J. R. Dougall, from the Committee on Associations, reported as follows :—

Your committee reports that the materials in its hands are entirely insufficient to enable it to draw from them any general conclusions of interest

to the Convention, with regard to statistics and points of similarity or difference between the different Associations. We would, therefore, recommend that a committee of three members of the Boston Association be appointed to receive and arrange the reports from the various Associations here represented, in such a manner as to make them valuable for the future.

The following question by Mr. Edsall, of Brooklyn, was referred to this committee, namely, "What form of initiation, in the judgment of this Convention, is best adapted to add interest and impressiveness in the admission of new members to our various local Associations?" Your committee, feeling that the simple election by ballot of an absent individual is often nugatory, would recommend, as an appropriate form of initiation, that the elected person be required to sign the roll of members and the constitution at a meeting of the Association, and that he be welcomed by the president or chairman of the meeting to membership in the Association.

Your committee would recommend to your favorable consideration the following resolution, offered by the Rev. Mr. Gallagher, Oswego:—

Resolved, That the General Secretary of this body, or some other officer, shall be appointed to visit the several Young Men's Christian Associations in this land, for the purpose of conveying information in regard to the general cause; of stirring up the pure minds of the brethren, by way of remembrance, and thereby to increase the power and efficiency of the various members of the body.

It is suggested that the words "this land" shall include both countries here represented, and that the office of such an agent shall include the formation of new societies where this seems practicable.

The report was referred to the Executive Committee after remarks by W. C. Clegg, of Troy, N. Y., T. J. Claxton, of Montreal, C. E., and others.

E. Colgate, from the Committee on Business, reported as follows:—

The committee report the following topics, in the form of inquiries, for the determination of the Convention:—

1. Shall a report of the proceedings of this Convention be printed?
2. If so, for how many copies will the members of the Convention subscribe?
3. Where shall the next Convention be held?

4. Where shall the Executive Committee be located for the current year?

The committee recommend that the Executive Committee consist of five resident members, and one corresponding member from each state, district, territory, and province.

The report was specially assigned for consideration at eight o'clock this evening.

Eleven o'clock having arrived, the special assignment for that hour was called, and Rev. D. W. FAUNCE, of Malden, Mass., proceeded to read an essay on "Faith, in its relation to the work of Young Men's Christian Associations":—

MR. FAUNCE'S ESSAY.

When our Lord was upon earth he met, on a certain occasion, a blind man who had faith to be healed. He touched those sightless eyes into vision, and while the man stood wondering at the new world about him, while hill, valley, plain, the earth beneath, the skies above, were yielding him, for the first time, their exquisite joy, there came from the lips of the Master the question, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? It was as if he had said, Dost thou not, now, when all these things meet thy gaze, believe on him who made them all, and hath opened thine eyes to behold them?

And when, three days ago, your Committee invited me to prepare an essay on "Faith as connected with the work of Young Men's Christian Associations," and when I thought of all the vast array of holy appliances which these institutions have evoked; of the hearts and hands so many and so earnest engaged in the work; of the results so beneficent already accomplished; of success so great that the very name of the Association is becoming a very synonym for enlarged and practical benevolence, I could not but think of the Master's question to the blind man, and ask with him, how, with all these things before us, can any man fail of faith in God and in his blessed gospel?

Who fails now, in this early summer-time, when all nature is clothed with beauty; when the generous juices are swelling the buds, and tree and shrub are bursting into leaf and flower, to believe in the sun in yonder heavens? And so here. We look, to-day, on actual results. Here are deeds wrought in God. He has blessed the seed we have planted, and

the spiritual verdure that gladdens our eyes, to-day, is his benediction on our work.

The founders of this Association were men of faith. They believed in God; they had faith in the gospel of Christ. They believed that there was a call to a peculiar form of Christian work not attempted by any other institution. They believed that there was a field. They believed in the seed of the gospel. They believed in a coming harvest. Their faith found vent in works. And now, in turn, their works, by the law of action and reaction, are helpful of the popular faith in Christ and Christianity. How little did the founders of this enterprise think that, in a few brief years, the results of their toil would be quoted as an illustration of the potency of the gospel; that the waning faith of the young men of this age would, by this means, be summoned to believe afresh in God and his truth; that a practical argument for Christian belief, for evangelic doctrine, would be founded on the success of their enterprise! There are certain aspects of this work which meet the popular objections to the Christian faith, and which furnish a popular argument in behalf of the gospel.

1. This Association shows the gospel as a *practical power* on a plane where the mass of men can appreciate it; and so it is helpful of the popular faith in Christianity. The arguments against our holy religion, found in books, have been answered triumphantly. Even infidelity now claims to believe in some sort of a God. Treatises in proof of the inspiration of the Scripture are not now demanded. Our sceptics compliment the Bible even while gracefully bowing it aside. But the argument most potent against our faith, most widespread, too, among our young men in business life, is the one which says Christianity *was*, but is not now a power; which says it is not now a practical thing. This is a material age. It has little or no reverence for ancient beliefs. It cares not what popes, or councils, or synods have decreed. It rather rejoices in the spirit of independence that would tear to tatters all paper creeds, all careful confessions of faith. It has too little respect even for God's Holy Word. But there is one thing this age will reverence; and that is *success*. It asks about any plan; will it work? is it a power, a force? is there efficiency in it? Show it results, let it catch a glimpse of success as pertaining to any enterprise, and it falls down at once and worships.

Here we have an institution which is a success. Founded in prayer, inspired by the truths of the gospel, it can point to the garnered fruit, and claim the attention of the world. This institution is a vital thing. It has a hundred hands, and every one of them busy. And no man in the land is so blind as not to have seen with his own eyes this work in some of its various departments. Back in the country, from which comes the supply of young men for our cities, there are fathers and mothers who know more

of the Young Men's Christian Association than of any other of our institutions. When a father pressed the hand of his son, and a mother imprinted her last kiss on his cheek as he left his home, both named to him this Association; both told him that you would help him to a boarding-place where every Christian influence should surround him; that you would introduce him to virtuous companions; that, in a city of strangers, the members of the Young Men's Christian Association would be friends. And so it has been. The well-furnished reading-room has kept him from visiting those gayly-lighted saloons, where death lurks in shining guise. The evening class for intellectual improvement has drawn him away from the attractions of the theatre and the billiard-room. And Christian associates have told him of pastors who feel a peculiar interest in young men: if he is sick they care for him, unfortunate they aid him. If he shall feel the call of patriotism and go forth as a soldier of freedom, they will watch over him in camp; or, if wounded or sick in some hospital, by the hands of the Christian Commission, — and there are thousands of boys in our army who, every time the Christian Commission is named, cry out, God bless it, — by the hands of the Christian Commission he receives, with medicine for the body, words of social cheer and of Christian consolation. I repeat it, the Young Men's Christian Association is a power. It has life. It has made itself a name. It has challenged the world's notice by its success. Men inquire into it. They find it a *Christian* institution. It was formed in prayer and faith. It is inspired by those grand old evangelical doctrines which have, in one form or another, an eternal vitality in them. And I believe it is nearly impossible to overestimate the value of our work as a popular argument which shall not only silence the breath of cavil, but revive anew a living faith in the public mind as to the vitality, the efficiency, and so the truthfulness of our Christian faith.

Again. That union of spiritual and material elements, which is peculiar to the work of this Association, is especially helpful to the popular faith in our religion. This is not a highly spiritual age. It cannot comprehend the best truths in the kingdom of God. It has no appreciation of the vast results accomplished by the church in the work of spreading the gospel. It only finds fault with our vast missionary work. Send ploughs and looms; civilize, then Christianize, it says. It can be made to understand the spiritual only through the material. Shall the church, as a church, go aside from its commissioned work? Nay. It may not. God has three great permanent institutions. They are the State, the Family, the Church. The latter is shut up to the work of gaining spiritual ends *by spiritual means*. Its weapons are of the gospel. It seeks souls. And so the age, far below this lofty plane, cannot understand it. It appears to be an isolated affair. It lacks, so men say, adaptation to

the times. But it is forgotten that the church, through the gospel, is even generating those vital forces which really meet every question which an age can present. Education was needed for the ministry, and so colleges were endowed, not by the church as a church, but by the wise liberality she had evoked. Another emergency was met, when a popular literature was needed, and the church threw off her Tract and Book societies. The children, taught in day schools, could only be saved to religion by some similar device. And so Sunday schools sprang out of the heart of the churches. And young men could only be reached by some method which should seek their temporal as well as their spiritual good, which should touch the social as well as the religious element in them. It was a demand of the time. And our religion was found equal to it. We have met it not by subverting the church, or proposing a substitute therefor, but by organizing these Young Men's Christian Associations which seek spiritual ends; which propose the salvation of the young by any and all means which a wise Christian expediency can devise. All these enterprises are to the church what raiders are to an army. They prepare the way for the host to pass on. They seek one end by various means. They meet, in the spirit of religion, the emergencies of the time. Our work is partly external. It takes in charge body and mind, so far as they bear upon the welfare of the soul. The temporal, the material in our work, strike the eye of the beholder. He asks what these things mean. He seeks the springs of all this widespread activity, and finds them in the religion of Jesus. Thus, the earthly helps the heavenly, — and he who would have been a scoffer sees a power in which he cannot but believe. These Associations are a practical protest against the idea that religion is either obsolete or powerless. They stop the half-uttered doubt as to whether faith is efficient; for they show that faith in gospel doctrines produces good works which are so manifest that none can either deny the facts or doubt the religion that inspires them.

Nor do you, my brethren of these Associations, teach the world only, but the church as well. It is much that your organization, meeting a want, attracts the attention of the unspiritual age and compels it to do unwilling homage to the gospel. But your work teaches all who would serve God that the activity of faith is the secret of its strength. Multitudes of good men have felt the power of the gospel. They are regenerate. But instead of leaving their souls with their Saviour in one great act of faith, and then going out to find and do some Christian work, they mope and whine, they probe their hearts for evidences of piety, and evaporate feeling, by trying to assay it in a crucible seven times heated. The cure is work, work, work. Many a man, relieved from this slough of despond, has sung, —

“ Oh, what a glorious record had the angels of me kept,
Had I done instead of doubted, had I warred instead of wept.”

And the results of your work should minister to your own larger faith in God's blessing on your extended enterprise. Only twenty years have elapsed since the first of these Associations began its timorous life in London. Only sixteen years ago the first Association of this kind was planted in America. But now hundreds of them grace the land. And every considerable city of America hastens to honor itself by such an institution. What hath God wrought! In some Northern State, a farmer, strong in hand and stout in heart, of good intelligence and burning with enterprise, shoulders his axe, gathers his family, as brave as he, and marches into the depths of the Western wilds. He goes far on beyond the haunts of men. He finds a spot so distant that no smoke of Indian wigwam stains the clear horizon. He sits down beside some broad water-course, where the soil is rich, and the grand old forests wave in lordly glory. He has faith in the westward flow of civilization. He believes that a thrifty town, or perchance a populous city, must speedily be gathered there. He has faith in his axe, in the brave boy at his side, in his own forecast. He goes at work. He clears the woodland. He breaks the waiting soil. Years roll by, the wild wood is a farm; the farm is a village; the village a town; the town a city. And he tells, with honest, unsinning pride, of his faith that all this would be. He believed, and so he acted. But men grow thick. They stifle the air. He will go out again with faith stronger and judgment keener than before. This time he will choose some point where mighty rivers, that drain each a territory, do converge. There is mineral wealth in the hills, and harvests lie hid in the untroubled soil. He laughs at obstacles. His former success inspires him. He sees in faith, and then, after the patient years are gone by, he sees in reality, results in which he had believed; and the broad city, teeming with life, pressing beyond all bounds that even he had dreamed, is the rich reward of his quenchless faith.

Shall faith in God, in his truth, in his promise, in the certified triumphs of every cause of good, be less strong, less vigorous, less efficient, than man's faith in himself?

We planted a crop in faith. We believed ourselves called to this work. The harvest, already reaped, proves we were right. There was a field for this kind of labor. We are going to sow the same kind of seed in the same kind of soil, and we will rest not till the great harvest, when we will come and bring ourselves and the sheaves our Master has given to let him gather us and ours into the garner of heaven.

At the conclusion of the essay, a hymn was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. Y. Hickey, of Rochester, N. Y.

On motion of W. C. Clegg, of Troy, N. Y., it was voted that the thanks of the Convention be extended to Mr. Faunce for his admirable essay, and that it be requested for publication with the doings of the Convention.

Remarks upon the essay were made by S. W. Stebbins, of New York; W. J. King, of Providence, R. I.; E. Colgate, New York; J. D. Reid, Rochester, N. Y.; P. B. Simons, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. Story, Boston, Mass.; T. O. Lincoln, D. D., Elmira, N. Y.; D. A. Sutton, Brooklyn, N. Y.; W. Degoyler, Troy, N. Y.; C. De-
mond, Boston, Mass.; S. M. Hunt, Chicago, Ill.; E. G. Tileston, and R. Sturgis, Jr., Boston, Mass.; and Rev. J. Irwin, Montreal, C. E.

S. W. Stebbins, from the Committee on Devotional Exercises, reported, that prayer-meetings would be held at the rooms of the Boston Association at 5 p. m., and on Sunday at 9½ o'clock a. m. and 6½ o'clock p. m.

M. Gallagher, from the Committee on International Affairs, reported the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces having received, by the hands of Mr. Thomas Hobson, the expression of Christian sympathy and fraternal feeling from the Young Men's Christian Association of Doncaster, England; and having heard of the courteous and kindly treatment of Brother Hobson, hereby express their sincere gratification therewith.

Recognizing the common tie of Christian brotherhood among all the followers of the Saviour, of all countries and climes, they fully reciprocate the kind sentiments contained in the resolution thus forwarded.

It is our earnest prayer that the influence of Young Men's Christian Associations may serve to bind together in bonds of amity and peace our respective nations, and that our only strife in the future may be, which shall most widely extend the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prayer was then offered and the benediction pronounced by Rev. J. IRWIN, of Montreal, C. E., and the Convention adjourned.

At 12½ o'clock the members, under escort of the Committee of Arrangements, proceeded to the Public Library, to visit that institution, by invitation of Hon. Edward Everett, President of the Board of Trustees. They were received by the Assistant Librarian, who read a letter from Mr. Everett, regretting that he could not be present, as he had expected, to accompany them in their survey.

This magnificent edifice was erected, by the City, at a cost of about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It was dedicated on the first day of January, 1858. It contains about one hundred and twenty thousand volumes, and is *free*. Its daily circulation is six hundred volumes, and the expenses, which amount, annually, to about thirty thousand dollars, are paid by the City. The various rooms of the building were visited, and the delegates expressed much admiration of the arrangements of the Library.

The members of the Convention then proceeded to the new Museum of the Boston Society of Natural History. This new and elegant building was formally dedicated during the present week.

The delegates examined the collections in the various rooms, and although there were no formal speeches, many gentlemen took opportunity to remark upon the completeness of the various collections and their convenient method of classification. The full and valuable collections of specimens of the Society have been arranged in cases, the library occupies a portion of the

rooms on the first floor, and the work rooms and various other departments have been fitted up so that the Society is prepared to enter upon its career of usefulness with the amplest elements of success. It was stated that Dr. Charles T. Jackson would eventually place there his cabinet of nearly 20,000 specimens, and that, with the addition of another private collection, which they desired to obtain, the mineralogical department would be the best on the continent. This collection was not claimed to be a great one, but it well represented many departments of natural history, and was making successful progress.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 3 o'clock the Convention assembled in Tremont Temple, where a public meeting was held, to represent the Sunday-school interest. The Temple was crowded. A choir of four hundred and thirty children, selected from various Sunday schools, was seated upon the platform, in the rear of the speakers. The choir was under the direction of B. W. WILLIAMS, Superintendent of the Berkeley Street Sunday School.

President Pond occupied the chair.

After a voluntary on the organ, the choir chanted the Lord's Prayer. The President briefly addressed the audience on the mutual relations of the Sunday school and the Christian Association. He said various branches of our work had been considered at public meetings, and it now remained to hold what, to him, was the most delightful service of all. The children had gathered to give them a cordial greeting, not alone in song, but through their leader, who is the superintendent of, probably, the largest Sunday school in New England, they would utter a word of welcome.

At the conclusion of the remarks of the President the children arose, and manifested their approbation by clapping hands, waving handkerchiefs, etc.

Mr. Williams immediately advanced to the front of the platform, and made a brief address of welcome, in behalf of the teachers and scholars of the Sunday schools of Boston.

The choir sang, in a most excellent manner, the following hymn :—

There is beauty all around
 When there's love at home ;
 There is joy in every sound
 When there's love at home.
 Peace and plenty here abide,
 Smiling sweet on every side,
 Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
 When there's love at home.

CHORUS. — Love at home, love at home ;
 Time doth softly, sweetly glide
 When there's love at home.

In the cottage there is joy
 When there's love at home ;
 Hate and envy ne'er annoy
 When there's love at home.
 Roses blossom 'neath our feet,
 All the earth's a garden sweet,
 Making life a bliss complete,
 When there's love at home.
 Love at home, love at home ;
 Making life a bliss complete
 When there's love at home.

Kindly heaven smiles above
 When there's love at home ;
 All the earth is filled with love
 When there's love at home.
 Sweeter sings the brooklet by,
 Brighter beams the azure sky ;
 Oh ! there's one who smiles on high
 When there's love at home.
 Love at home, love at home ;
 Oh ! there's one who smiles on high
 When there's love at home.

Jesus, show thy mercy mine,
 Then there's love at home;
 Sweetly whisper I am thine,
 Then there's love at home.
 Source of love, thy cheering light
 Far exceeds the sun so bright —
 Can dispel the gloom of night;
 Then there's love at home.
 Love at home, love at home;
 Oh! there's one who smiles on high;
 Then there's love at home.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mason Gallagher, of Oswego, N. Y.

The following duet and chorus was sung :—

We gather, we gather, dear Jesus, to bring
 The breathings of love 'mid the blossoms of Spring;
 Our Maker! Redeemer! we gratefully raise
 Our hearts and our voices in hymning thy praise.

CHORUS.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hosanna in the highest!
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hosanna to the Lord!

When stooping to earth from the brightness of heaven,
 Thy blood for our ransom so freely was given;
 Thou deignedst to listen while children adored,
 With joyful hosannas, the blessed of the Lord!

Those arms which embraced little children of old
 Still love to encircle the lambs of the fold;
 That grace which inviteth the wandering home
 Hath never forbidden the youngest to come.

Hosanna! hosanna! Great Teacher, we raise
 Our hearts and our voices in hymning thy praise,
 For precepts and promise so graciously given;
 For blessings of earth and the glories of heaven.

Rev. T. O. Lincoln, D. D., of Elmira, N. Y., then addressed the children, in a very pleasing and instructive manner. He congratulated himself upon his name, and

quoted the proverb, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." He related some entertaining incidents connected with President Lincoln, and commended him as an example to the boys in several particulars, but especially for his piety, stating that the President had informed a chaplain of his acquaintance that, a year since, he had given his heart to God, and was now a Christian.

A patriotic song, "Bear on our flag o'er all the land," to the popular "Soldier's Chorus," from Faust, was sung in grand chorus, and rapturously applauded. While the first verse was being sung a large flag, which had been concealed, was suddenly unfolded, and dropped from the ceiling, causing great enthusiasm. The audience arose, and gave three cheers for the stars and stripes. It was some time before the applause had so far subsided as to allow the execution of the remainder of the piece, which was loudly *encored*, and immediately repeated.

S. W. Stebbins, of New York, was then introduced, and he made an earnest appeal for the Sunday-school cause, and illustrated, in a forcible manner, the great work which it is accomplishing.

A desire was expressed, by a delegate, to know how many present were engaged in this work. The President, thereupon, requested all who were engaged in the Sunday school to rise, and a very large proportion of the vast audience at once arose!

A dirge was then sung, in honor of the noble soldiers who have fallen in defending our flag, "Peace to the brave!"

James D. Reid, of Rochester, N. Y., was the next speaker. He greatly amused and interested the children and the audience, and was followed by a hymn and chorus:—

Blessed Bible ! how I love it !
 How it doth my bosom cheer !
 What on earth like this to covet ?
 Oh ! what stores of wealth are here !
 Man was lost, and doomed to sorrow,
 Not one ray of light or bliss
 Could he from earth's treasures borrow
 Till his way was cheered by this.
 CHORUS. — Blessed Bible ! Blessed Bible !
 How thou dost my spirits cheer !

Yes, I'll to my bosom press thee ;
 Precious Word, I'll hide thee here,
 Sure my very heart will bless thee,
 For thou ever sayest " Good cheer." —
 Speak, poor heart, and tell thy ponderings, —
 Tell how far thy roving led,
 When this book brought back thy wanderings,
 Speaking life as from the dead.

Yes, sweet Bible ! I will hide thee
 Deep — yes deeper in this heart :
 Thou through all my life will guide me,
 And, in death, we will not part.
 Part in death ? no, never ! never !
 Through death's vale I'll lean on thee ;
 Then, in worlds above, forever
 Sweeter still thy truths shall be.

Deacon William J. King, of Providence, R. I., made the closing address.

The patriotic solo and chorus, entitled " Draw the sword for us — we'll keep the needle bright for you," was next sung. In the first verse, the audience was electrified by the sudden display of small flags by all the singers, which they waved in unison with the music ; this was most enthusiastically applauded.

As soon as silence was restored, the President read a despatch, which had just been received, announcing important successes by the Army of the Potomac, in its march upon Richmond. The audience again burst forth

into applause, and, at a call from one of the delegates three hearty cheers were given for Lieut.-Gen. Grant.

The remaining verses were then sung, and the exercises were brought to a close by the benediction by Rev. Dr. Lincoln.

The President announced that the children would perform some additional pieces, if desired; and the audience remained while several popular melodies were sung, in a charming manner. Among these were the "Star-Spangled Banner," accompanied by the waving of the miniature flags. The audience then rose and joined the choir in singing a verse of the hymn, "My country, 'tis of thee."

The singing was a prominent attraction of the meeting, and was, undoubtedly, one of the most interesting features of the whole Convention. The pieces were executed with great promptness, power, and skill by the scholars, who were afterwards entertained with a bountiful collation by the Committee of the Boston Association.

At the close of the public exercises the audience repaired to the rooms of the Boston Association, in the same building, where devotional services were held, of a deeply interesting character, conducted by D. A. Sutton, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention met for business in the Mount Vernon Church, at 8 o'clock, President Pond in the chair.

Prayer was offered by P. B. Simons, of Philadelphia.

The records of the morning session were read by Secretary Coffin, and approved.

The President presented a preamble and resolution from Mr. G. M. Powell, of Washington, D. C., as follows:—

Whereas, Dancing, card-playing, theatre-going, and intemperance in various forms, are, to a fearful extent, becoming the besetting sins of professing Christians in this country; and whereas, all who do these things are thus vainly striving to do what our Saviour has explicitly declared to be impossible when he said "Ye cannot serve God and mammon;" and whereas, to all such that Scripture which saith "Woe unto those who are at ease in Zion" is applicable; therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the duty of all Young Men's Christian Associations, and of every member of each of said Associations, to oppose these sins by all the means in their power; and especially to oppose them by their example in abstaining from them.

The resolution was adopted.

W. E. Abbott, of Syracuse, N. Y., offered a resolution relative to advertising the next Annual Convention in New York city and other papers.

This resolution was discussed by T. S. Pycott, Boston, Mass.; C. C. Hall, Elmira, N. Y.; W. Edsall, Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. Irwin, Montreal, C. E.; P. B. Simons, Philadelphia, Pa.; and M. W. Pond, Boston, Mass. The subject was then indefinitely postponed.

Andrew J. Chase, of Portland, Me., offered the following:—

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to prepare, and send to the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and Canadas, appropriate *blanks*, which, when filled out and returned, will secure for the use of the next Convention facts and figures of interest, in regard to the work of such Associations.

Adopted.

A considerable discussion took place upon a resolution in regard to the States in rebellion against the Government of the United States. The resolution was withdrawn, and prayer in reference to the subject was offered by Rev. John Irwin, of Montreal, C. E.

The special assignment, being the report of the Committee on Business, was taken up. (See p. 107.) Upon the first question submitted, it was voted that the pro-

ceedings of the Convention be printed in pamphlet form, under the direction of the Executive Committee.

On motion of M. W. Pond, of Boston, Mass., it was voted that an abstract of the proceedings of the Convention at Chicago be printed in the same pamphlet.

Voted, That the subject of printing the reports from various Associations be referred, with full powers, to the Executive Committee.

The delegates from the various Associations were desired to subscribe for the published report, and the following responses were made:—

P. B. Simons,	for Philadelphia Association,	150	copies.
S. W. Stebbins,	" New York	150	"
M. W. Pond,	" Boston	150	"
T. J. Claxton,	" Montreal	100	"
W. C. Clegg,	" Troy	50	"
Y. Hickey,	" Rochester	50	"
A. J. Chase,	" Portland	50	"
S. M. Hunt,	" Chicago	50	"
W. Edsall,	" Brooklyn	50	"
R. Baldwin,	" Toronto	25	"
J. A. Coleman,	" Providence	25	"
W. E. Abbott,	" Syracuse	20	"
L. F. Warren,	" Salem	20	"
T. J. Claxton,	" London	20	"
M. Gallagher,	" Oswego	20	"
C. F. Spencer,	" Newport	20	"
C. C. Hall,	" Elmira,	10	"
G. B. Fenner,	" Danbury	10	"
J. N. Lester,	" Binghampton	10	"
J. Hilton,	" Belvidere	5	"

Total, 985 "

The fourth topic presented by the Committee was considered:—"Where shall the next Convention be held?"

P. B. Simons named Philadelphia, and urged the selection of that city, as it had never enjoyed the priv-

ilege, and was the head-quarters of the Christian Commission.

J. R. Dougall, T. J. Claxton, and T. S. Pycott spoke in favor of Montreal; S. M. Hunt and Y. Hickey for Rochester; J. T. Conkling and J. B. Sheppard for Philadelphia; and W. Edsall, for Richmond.

After further remarks by J. Irwin, of Montreal, C. E., N. Lester, of Binghampton, N. Y., and G. P. Denny, of Boston, Mass., a vote was taken, and Philadelphia designated as the place for holding the next Annual Convention.

The second Wednesday in the month was mentioned as the most convenient day for commencing the sessions of the Convention, and the suggestion was referred to the Executive Committee.

The next topic, presented by the Committee on Business, was the location of the Executive Committee.

It was voted that the Executive Committee, for the year 1864-5, be located at Boston.

On motion of J. D. Reid, of Rochester, N. Y., the Convention proceeded to the appointment of the Executive Committee, to be constituted as follows:—Five resident members, and a corresponding member for each state, district, territory, and province.

The roll of States was then called, and the delegations present made nominations as follows, the remaining appointments being referred to the Committee:—

RESIDENT MEMBERS.

Joséph A. Pond, Edward G. Tileston, George P. Denny, Edward H. Dunn, Boston, Mass.

Charles H. Price, Salem, Mass.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

- Maine* — Thomas R. Hayes, Portland.
New Hampshire — Rev. Henry Chandler, Sandown.
Vermont — Frank S. White, Bennington.
Massachusetts — Franklin W. Smith, Boston.
Rhode Island — John A. Coleman, Providence.
Connecticut — Elias B. Stevens, Danbury.
New York — William E. Dodge, Jr., New York.
New Jersey — John Moses, Trenton.
Pennsylvania — Peter B. Simons, Philadelphia.
Maryland — Rev. B. H. Creever, Frederick.
District of Columbia — William J. Rhees, Washington.
Kentucky — J. E. Hardy, Louisville.
Ohio — H. Thane Miller, Cincinnati.
Michigan — Silas Farmer, Detroit.
Indiana — Rev. J. P. Safford, D.D., New Albany.
Illinois — Rev. N. D. Williamson, Chicago.
Wisconsin — H. C. Dickinson, Beloit.
Minnesota — Rev. J. N. Thresber.
Iowa — William Mills, Dubuque.
Missouri — Isaac S. Smyth, St. Louis.
California — Josiah Bacon, San Francisco.
Tennessee — K. A. Burnell, Memphis.
Canada East — J. Redpath Dougall, Montreal.
Canada West — Rev. Charles P. Watson, London.
New Brunswick — Edward E. Lockhart, St. John.
Nova Scotia — James Farquhar, Halifax.

On motion of M. W. Pond, it was voted that the resident members of the Executive Committee be authorized to act, for said Committee, upon all matters connected with the Convention.

S. W. Stebbins, from the Committee on Devotional Exercises, reported the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That this Convention earnestly recommends to the members of the Associations that, on Tuesday morning of each week, remembrance be had, in prayer, of the Young Men's Christian Association and the United States Christian Commission.

On motion of E. Colgate, New York, the thanks of the Convention were unanimously tendered to the officers of Harvard University, the General Theological Library, the Public Library, the Society of Natural History, the Everett School, and the Dwight School, for their very kind invitations to the members of the Convention to visit their respective institutions.

Voted, That all unfinished business be referred to the Executive Committee, with full powers.

At eleven o'clock the Convention adjourned.

SUNDAY.

MORNING.

Devotional services, under the direction of the Committee on those exercises, were held at the rooms of the Boston Association, at 9½ o'clock A. M., at which the Holy Spirit was manifestly present.

During the day several of the pulpits of the city were occupied by the clergymen of the Convention, and the various Sunday schools were visited and addressed by the delegates. In some of the churches the Lord's Supper was administered, at which many of the members were present.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention assembled, for prayer, at the rooms of the Boston Association, at 6 o'clock. S. W. Stebbins, Chairman of the Committee on Devotional Exercises, conducted the meeting. After a season of great spiritual enjoyment, at 7½ o'clock the exercises were closed, and the members marched, in a body, into the hall of the Tremont Temple, and took seats upon the platform.

Here an immense multitude of people had gathered, the vast hall being densely packed in every part, and hundreds being obliged to leave without even obtaining room to stand.

THE FAREWELL SERVICES.

After a voluntary on the organ, President Pond took the chair, and introduced the exercises, briefly stating the object of the meeting, which to the delegates was always one of great interest and touching solemnity.

Prayer was offered by Rev. John Alexander, of Montreal, C. E.

The hymn was then sung by the audience, which commences,—

“Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
And press with vigor on.”

O. Vincent Coffin, the Secretary of the Convention, offered the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are hereby tendered—

1st. To the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, for their zealous and untiring exertions to render our visit to Boston one of great pleasure and spiritual profit.

2d. To the pastors and officers of the Mount Vernon and Old South Congregational Churches, for the use of their houses of worship.

3d. To the people of Boston, through whose kindness and hospitality in welcoming and entertaining us at their pleasant homes, our enjoyment has been so greatly heightened.

4th. To the President and other officers of this Convention, for the patience and fidelity with which they have cheerfully performed the duties assigned them.

5th. To the editors and reporters of those papers in which the proceedings of this Convention have been published.

6th. To the Vermont Central Railroad Company and connecting lines, and the Troy and Boston Railroad Company, for their generous arrangements in regard to the fare of delegates to this Convention; and to L. Millis, Esq., of Boston, for his earnest efforts in the same behalf.

S. W. Stebbins, President of the New York Association, spoke as follows:—

REMARKS OF MR. STEBBINS.

MR. PRESIDENT,—

In seconding these resolutions, I would it were possible to express the emotions of gratitude that come welling up for utterance. But *words* are too feeble to convey to the Boston Young Men's Christian Association and to this community the thanks of this National Convention for the high privilege we have enjoyed. We had *heard* the fame of Boston, of her noble men and women, of their words and deeds in the cause of liberty, that render them dear to the heart of every lover of his country. We had heard of her public institutions and her private charities. But it remained for us to come and see for ourselves; to look upon your faces; to share your hospitality, both municipal and family; to visit your libraries and schools, your collections of the rare and beautiful from Nature's storehouse. We have learned your care for the outcast as for your own children. We have listened to the voices of your honored pastors; to the sweet strains of your music. We have mingled our prayers together at the family altar and in the social circle; and some of us have this day sat with you at the table of our common Lord. We shall forever give thanks to God for these days of blessing. And while we separate to return to our homes and to our accustomed labors, it will be our earnest prayer that we may meet again on the banks of the "river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."

And now, what lesson shall we carry with us as we descend this mount? We have been told of your John Hancock, who wrote his name in characters so large as "to be read across the Atlantic." Brethren of this Convention, and all present in this great congregation, may the Holy Spirit teach us our privilege to inscribe our names to be read over a *wider* space,—to be read beyond the bounds of our narrow sphere, up through all the shining ranks of redeemed spirits and of holy angels that encircle the throne of the Eternal!—yea, more! by the INFINITE himself, as they are recorded in the "Lamb's book of life." *Where, how* shall we write them? Upon *human hearts*, and by acts and words of Christian mercy and love. Many men and women are writing them *to-day* indelibly as they minister in the hospital and on the battle-field to our suffering countrymen who have stood in the deadly breach for *our* advantage. *You* are doing it in every work of mercy and look of kindness toward the wayward and perishing around you. *We* are, one and all, to write them in personal efforts

to win the souls of children, of young men, of *all*, to Him who has bought us with his blood. As we part, let us go "looking unto Jesus;" and following him faithfully unto death, at the last from his own lips we shall hear the welcome, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Peter B. Simons, President of the Philadelphia Association, was the next speaker. He alluded, with deep feeling, to the unexpected and unbounded hospitality of the people of Boston, and said that he really had begun to feel sorry that the Convention had voted to go to Philadelphia next year, lest they should be unable to equal the entertainment which they had here received. He expressed his great delight with the meetings, which had carried him near to heaven itself. He then related some incidents connected with his late visit to the army before Richmond, and gave several touching scenes which he had witnessed in the hospitals and on the battle-field, among the sick, the wounded, and the dying. He compared the farewells which he had there received with the present occasion, and remarked, in conclusion, that we belong to an army whose soldiers, ere long, will muster where "farewell" is never said.

J. T. Conkling, M. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., was then introduced.

ADDRESS OF DR. CONKLING.

MR. PRESIDENT, —

I am instructed by the delegates from the Association in Brooklyn to endorse most heartily the resolutions now before the Convention.

We can readily see, sir, that you, gentlemen, brethren of the Boston Association, might have invited us here, and at slight expense of time and labor performed your duty as our hosts. But you chose an entirely different course. The fact that you and we name the same loving Jesus as our Saviour, was an undisputed passport to your hearts and your homes. Each portion of every day has been full of the most unceasing attentions to our comfort and our pleasure. You have permitted us to visit your noble har-

bor on an excursion that will long be memorable ; your municipal authorities recognizing the spring of our action as a powerful force in the development of the Christian citizen, gave us a welcome and an entertainment alike honorable to them and to their city, the significance of which was fully appreciated by the entire Convention.

Your libraries, museums of art, and your institutions of learning have been thrown open for our inspection. For these courtesies, so many, so varied, and so heartily extended, we, the delegates of the Brooklyn Association, *thank* you.

And now, fellow-delegates from abroad, our communing together here is about to close. We go back each to his particular field of labor. Very soon we shall be again participating in the loved scenes of our homes and our churches. We shall carry with us, I am sure, from this Convention, new inspirations to labor ; but in the future, as in the past, the work we do and the results we accomplish will depend upon the estimate we have of ourselves. That man who does not value his own soul's worth properly, — he who does not prize the love he has in his own heart for the Saviour as above all price, will do but little for his fellows ; but let him be imbued with the thought that God's estimate of him was such that he gave his Son for his redemption, — let him realize the glorious fact that he is a son of God, a joint heir with Christ, for whom a place and a crown are prepared in heaven, and from such a stand-point estimate the value of souls, and how cheerfully will he labor ! how strong will be his faith ! And as the result of labor, faith, and prayer, how many there will be in heaven through his instrumentality ! May we thus labor, and may such be our great reward !

In these days, sir, in which we are permitted to live, there are demands for the highest type of Christian manhood, — unceasing calls for the exhibition of the noblest qualities of mind and heart. We have a great work to do. Intemperance is rolling over our land, and drawing into its deadly whirlpool hosts of precious souls. The rebellion, which has threatened the life of our nation, is not yet subdued. Great questions relating to man's right to happiness, to liberty, to himself, are to agitate our country. Great questions of an international character are to convulse society and our government. There is need of strong arms and stout hearts. With these momentous, unsolved issues at stake, — with a future so full of interest that will influence the destinies of nations through coming generations, — may we not realize, with the poet, that, —

“ We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time ;
In an age on ages telling, —
To be living is sublime.”

The audience then arose, and, accompanied by the organ, thousands of voices sang the hymn beginning,—

“Oh could I speak the matchless worth,
Oh could I sound the glories forth,
Which in my Saviour shine!”

Rev. William Hague, D.D., was then presented to respond for the churches and the people of Boston. This he did in an address of great beauty and power:—

“I represent,” said he, “the Boston homes and Boston hearts, when I say we reciprocate the sentiments expressed in the resolutions, and by the gentlemen who have spoken for the Convention. Not only that: we thank them most heartily for their presence here.” He proceeded to speak of the work of the Christian Commission, the child of these Associations, citing several incidents of thrilling interest, and portraying, in an affecting manner, scenes in the hospitals in Virginia.

He next considered the mission of Young Men’s Christian Associations, which he treated as threefold. First, the most important, the socializing of Christianity; secondly, the presenting to the world the best evidence of the catholic spirit of Christianity; and lastly, in this particular time and country, the display of the grandeur and power of active Christianity in the midst of revolution.

He depicted, in a strain of eloquence peculiar to himself, the temptations to which young men in our great cities are exposed, and concluded by bidding the delegates a hearty God-speed on their journey to their homes.

Edward G. Tileston, President of the Boston Association, responded, in behalf of the Association, as follows:—

MR. TILESTON’S ADDRESS.

Several years ago it was my good fortune to visit the “Panorama of a Voyage to Europe.” The picture embraced correct and beautiful views in our harbor, Massachusetts Bay, the river Mersey, Liverpool, London, Paris, Rome, the Rhine, etc.; but the time occupied in unrolling the canvas and displaying it, to the satisfaction of an audience, was lengthy, though remunerative. A few months later, curiosity led me to the studio of an

eccentric artist, who had resolved to appropriate as much of the picture as possible to himself and his friends, without "such a waste," as he termed it, "of time and money," and to this end had purchased a few square feet of canvas, giving in a bunch, in the form of a pyramid, a mixture of steamships, lighthouses, castles, towers, cathedrals, monasteries, the Alps, etc., all of which were finely executed, and, like a bouquet, beautiful for the eye to rest upon, but so compactly crowded into a mass of elegance that it was impossible fully to appreciate them. I find myself, to-night, in the position of this eccentric artist. I would like to unroll the canvas of our five-days' convention, and revel in the scenes through which we have passed: the prayer-meetings, exhortations, narratives, experiences, excursions, festivities, etc., etc.; but I am allowed only my few feet of canvas on which to trace them with you in parting; but, thanks to our heavenly Father, the memory of them is preserved, in detail, upon the tablet of our hearts, and may be unrolled at pleasure.

Truly, dear friends, we have never enjoyed ourselves more than while we have been associated with you. We have been the host, but you have made us your guests! And, now, we return to work again; — and what is our work? It is said of Michael Angelo that, passing through a street in Florence with a friend, he observed at the side of the way what appeared, to his practised eye, to be a very choice piece of marble. As he turned aside to remove the rubbish with his cane, his friend remarked that it was nothing but a stone. "Ay," said Michael Angelo, "but there's an angel in that stone!" And, sure enough, by patient application with mallet and chisel, in a short time, he produced the exact figure of an angel. But it was dumb! To-day, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Architect of the Universe, the Sculptor of mankind, who said "My Father worked hitherto, and I work," is walking by our side as he walked with the disciples on their way to Emmaus, and seeing a fallen brother he stops to look on him. We say, it's nothing but a brute, and forbid that the Saviour should be annoyed; but he says, "Forbid me not," "There's an angel there," "Remove him to my studio, the church!" And oh! in how many instances has such an one become "as the angels of God."

Who is able to estimate the influence of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the land?

Sometimes it seems as if the Almighty had collected in one temple, rising from the centre of the earth, representatives from different denominations, — supported by the church, — to prove to the world that one great Christian institution may exist, and flourish too, without the least appearance of discord arising from sect or party. Fit emblem of the church above! In all the meetings of the Young Men's Christian Associations that I have attended in the past ten years or more, I have never witnessed

the least attempt to place one sect above another, and I believe this to be the experience of thousands. "Christ, and him crucified," is the theme of the brotherhood, and this alone can exalt us. After two years' attendance at the business-men's noon-day prayer-meetings, at the "Old South Chapel," a constant brother, a Methodist, had always believed me to be a member of his sect, so carefully had I refrained from mentioning my denomination. It was the highest compliment of my life, and God grant that it may always be so in this connection. The church is but the scaffolding to the Celestial City; our Saviour, Christ, "is the way, the truth, and the life."

But I must bid you a final farewell. "We have welcomed the coming, and now we must speed the going guest." Oh! that "lifting up our eyes," with the faith of the gospel, we "could see no man save Jesus only," pronouncing his blessing and benediction upon us. Our deliberations in convention have been of a sacred character, and it has sometimes seemed as if the atmosphere were as pure and serene as that of heaven. "God has blessed us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him." Dear friends, good-by; God bless you; farewell!

The hymn commencing "God bless our native land!" was next sung.

The President* remarked, in announcing this hymn, that it must not be forgotten that two nationalities are represented in the Convention, and while the metre would forbid its expression in the song, yet, in our hearts, we could say "God bless the dominions of her Majesty Queen Victoria!" This sentiment received the hearty applause of the audience.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Yates Hickey, of Rochester, N. Y. Rev. John Irwin, of Montreal, C. E., was introduced, and received with applause.

He returned thanks for the kindness extended to the Montreal delegation. He then spoke with reference to the state of our country, hoping that slavery, the bitter drop in the cup of this nation, being entirely removed, the people might drink in peace of the now sweetened fountain.

He said Canadian Christians take a great interest in this struggle, and entertain the kindest feelings toward their American brethren. "We pray for you," said he, "that this bitterness may be removed, and that

you may slake your thirst, again and again, without anything to render unpalatable the pure water of which you have so long and deeply drunk.

He said they had, in Montreal, a branch of the Christian Commission, and were doing much to send comforts to the bodies and souls of the Union army. It was worth a journey from Montreal, on foot, to hear the splendid address of Mr. Stuart, on Friday evening. It was worth something to see a man really in earnest, and he had learned how terribly in earnest men become in a great crisis like this.

He then alluded to the spiritual character of the meetings, and to the necessity of more vital piety and less worldliness among Christians, and took leave of the brethren, saying, "We go home with grateful hearts, and we feel that we have learned valuable lessons upon the way in which we may serve the Lord our God."

James D. Reid, of Rochester, N. Y., was the next speaker. He made a very entertaining and characteristic speech, greatly interesting the audience by his quaint and vivacious style of illustration. He read, with good effect, some verses entitled, "The Starless Crown," and, with deep emotion, bade the Boston brethren, farewell.

Rev. Wm. W. Evarts, D. D., of Chicago, Ill., was then introduced.

Dr. Evarts remarked that the Ninth Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations would be more memorable, to some, from the *place* of its assembling — the capital of a civilization more resplendent than adorned Assyria, Egypt, Greece, or Rome, and embracing within its narrow limits, a larger combination of the varied elements essential to the highest well-being and progress of the race — than the whole domain of those revolted States which have so long vaunted their disfellowship and hatred of it. But that disfellowship would be coveted as a proud distinction, by other cities, as betraying an instinctive apprehension of the strongest of the strongholds of that free Christian civilization which has ever menaced, and is now overthrowing, the oligarchy and feudalism of the South.

He said this Convention would also be memorable from the crisis of national destiny at which it was held. As the Hebrews were forty years in the wilderness that they might be prepared for their new freedom and nationality, so the American people have been involved in the prolonged

struggle of the rebellion till our diverse populations are assimilated to one great nationality ; freedom is more fully appreciated as a great and inalienable right of all, rather than the privilege or monopoly of a class ; and the overruling providence of God is recognized by the whole nation. And now as these ends seem in good measure attained, the tribes of our political Israel seem approaching the confines of our land of promise. Our Joshua has been raised up, our chosen men are surrounding the doomed Jericho, and the whole land listens to hear report of its falling walls and the military and civil power of the rebellion.

Synchronizing with such a crisis, our anniversary will be remembered as the passage of the Red Sea or fall of Jericho by the Hebrews. But this anniversary will also be memorable from the interest and fellowship of our assemblies, so fully noticed by others this evening. Let us return from this mount of vision to renew our endeavors to build up our Associations in all the cities of the country, and through them seek the salvation of the young, our country, and the world.

The hymn, "Blow ye the trumpet, blow," was sung.

Russell Sturgis, Jr., of Boston, Mass., was the last speaker. He alluded to the spirit of prayer in which the Convention had been called and conducted, and hoped that it might be closed in the same spirit. He spoke, in a feeling manner, of the blessing which he believed would result from this gathering in Boston.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The President of the Convention, JOSEPH A. POND, then delivered the farewell address.

PRESIDENT POND'S ADDRESS.

BRETHREN OF THE CONVENTION : With great hesitation, I approach the duty, by custom reserved to the President for these closing moments.

I thank you for the resolution complimentary to myself. With unfeigned reluctance and a sincere distrust of my abilities to meet the requirements and expectations of the Convention, after vain struggles to escape it, I accepted the position with which, with irresistible unanimity and kindness, you had honored me. And now, with all the earnestness of my heart, I thank you for the courtesy, the indulgence, and the ready coöperation with which my imperfect service has been borne. Your too kind words of praise

and sentiments of personal regard, so freely bestowed, have awakened within me the deepest emotions of gratitude, and I relinquish this position with a light heart, full of joy that, in the providence of God, I have had the privilege of contributing, in any degree, to the success of the Convention.

I thank you for the unanimity and the Christian love which have pervaded every heart. You have come from the banks of the St. Lawrence, from the Granite Hills, from the Empire State, from the borders of the Great Lakes, from the Valley of the Mississippi and from the Pacific coast, making your pilgrimage to this pilgrim city, to take counsel upon the great work to which you are devoting your energies. Though bearing different denominational names and living under different laws, yet, in this tie, we know neither sectarian, sectional, nor national distinctions. Gathered from all the loyal parts of this country and from the adjacent provinces, here we have sat — Americans and Britons — descended all from the same stock, speaking the same language, enjoying the same religion, greeting and loving each other like brethren of the same family.

I thank you for the generous and flattering expressions with which you have been pleased, this evening and at other meetings, to speak of your entertainment in Boston. I trust you have found warm hearts and joyous welcomes. But I am sure our people feel that they are rather your debtors, and that they will long cherish the pleasant social intercourse which they have enjoyed — your prayers, the religious atmosphere which you have brought, the moral advantages to our field of labor arising from the presence and influence of the Convention, and the blessings which you will leave behind. You will carry away with you our remembrance, our affections, our sympathies, and our prayers.

With trembling lips, I pronounce the word which shall sunder these bonds of friendship so recently, yet so strongly, formed. A few days since many of us met as strangers to each other. To-night we part as very friends. Shall we ever forget these precious seasons which we have spent together? Never! never! We may return, one to his farm, and another to his merchandise, yet these fond memories will remain — the friendships here formed will endure forever.

Would that you could longer stay! But it has well been said, “the mount of transfiguration is not the place to dwell. It is the place to be refreshed, to gather strength, and then we must go down again, to spread abroad the spirit which we have caught.” Stimulated by the discussions of this Convention, let us carry home, to our varied spheres of labor the blessed influences here received, and labor with fresh energy for the thousands of young men who are perishing around us.

We part! And though sorrowing, most of all, for the farewell words

which we speak, and that we can all see each other no more in the flesh, yet we shall meet in the better land, coming again with rejoicing, bringing our sheaves with us.

Let us joyfully look for that reunion in "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem," with "the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven; and God, the Judge of all; and the spirits of just men made perfect; and Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant." Till that blessed day, brethren beloved, I bid you an affectionate farewell — farewell!

The Convention then arose and sang, with much spirit, the farewell hymn: —

"Say, brothers, will you meet us
On Canaan's happy shore?
By the grace of God we'll meet you
Where parting is no more.
Jesus lives and reigns forever
On Canaan's happy shore —
Glory, glory, hallelujah;
Forever, evermore!"

In singing this closing hymn the delegates stood hand in hand, and strong men could not restrain their tears at such a parting.

Rev. Dr. Hague offered prayer and pronounced the benediction.

The President then declared the Convention adjourned *sine die*, to assemble in the city of Philadelphia in 1865, at the call of the Executive Committee.

The farewell services, which from the commencement were deeply interesting and affecting, were closed at about 11 o'clock, but the delegates lingered for some time to take leave of each other.

O. VINCENT COFFIN,
Secretary of the Convention.

APPENDIX.

VISIT TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY, AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST, ON MONDAY, JUNE 6TH.

At 9 o'clock A. M. those of the delegates who remained in the city assembled in the rooms of the Boston Association, to visit Harvard University, by invitation of the President, Rev. Thomas Hill, D. D.

Dr. J. Sullivan Warren, a member of the Committee of Arrangements of the Boston Association, provided carriages for all who were in attendance.

The delegates were first driven to the Warren Museum of Natural History and Physiology, where they had a survey of its extensive collections. The kind attentions of Dr. Warren were gratefully appreciated by his visitors.

The members of the Convention were thence taken—under escort of Dr. Norris, of the Medical School, also a member of the Committee of Arrangements—to Harvard University, at Cambridge. The following account is furnished by Vice-President Stebbins:—

We were cordially welcomed by the Librarian, John Langdon Sibley, Esq., who was evidently at home amid the vast stores of ancient and modern literature that crowded the alcoves of the Library. He was abundant in his attentions, and it was with reluctance we left the noble hall which, for ages, has been the resort of so many of our country's leading men, both in church and state. The library contains many curious and ancient manuscripts, for which large sums of money have been paid. We saw a copy of the Holy Scripture translated in the language of the American Indians by the missionary Elliott, and printed in colonial days when they were not allowed to print the Scriptures in the *English* language. There is now only one man living who can read it, and, we think, only that one copy extant.

We were kindly conducted through the various class-rooms, lecture-rooms, libraries, etc., — the law department with its extensive library ; the chemical laboratory ; the mineralogical and other collections of nature, science, and art.

Passing from the very neat and beautiful University grounds, we surveyed the Gymnasium with its well-arranged apparatus for exercising and developing the nerve and muscle of the students.

Last, but not least, we were received by Prof. Niles, assistant of Professor Agassiz, and conducted through the extensive wing of the proposed magnificent building which is to contain the great museum, which promises to be the marvel of both hemispheres, for perfection of arrangement and extent and variety of specimens from all the lower kingdoms of animate creation. After a hasty glance at the one hundred thousand objects, now on exhibition, we were admitted to the cellar, where are bestowed other two hundred thousand in various stages of preparation. The half of these are representatives of six thousand varieties of the piscatory tribes. We were forcibly reminded of the psalmist's exclamation : " O Lord, our Lord ! how manifold are thy works ! In wisdom hast thou made them all. The earth is full of thy riches ! " In conveying to the Professor the thanks of the Convention, the desire was expressed, that as we were permitted here to touch the outer edge of the exhaustless fountains of wisdom and knowledge, we might meet again in the Paradise above, and, to eternity, pursue the study of God's works and ways under the tutelage of *Infinite* wisdom, power, and love.

Breaking away from these delightful retreats, a part of the company proceeded to Mount Auburn Cemetery, which is one of the loveliest spots not only in the neighborhood of Boston, but in New England. Its groves, tombs, trees, flowers, mounds, avenues, all having some beautiful floral name, with its high summit in the centre, on which stands a tower 200 feet high, having winding stairs leading to the top, from which you have a most magnificent view of the surrounding country, — all render it a place of great interest and attraction. We left this paradise of silence and beauty with feelings of a peculiar character, hoping to have the privilege of visiting it again, for —

" A thing of beauty
Is a joy forever."

An invitation had been extended to the delegates to visit the State Prison at Charlestown, by Hon. Gideon Haynes, the Warden, but the lateness of its reception prevented the Convention from accepting it.

CALL FOR THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

(See page 9.)

PHILADELPHIA, May 2, 1863.

TO THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF
THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES.

DEAR BRETHREN: As your Central Committee duly appointed and authorized, we hereby invite you to meet in National Convention, in the city of Chicago, Illinois, at 10 A. M., on the 4th day of June next.

In consequence of the unhappy war which disturbs the country, no regular Convention has been held since 1860; but, although war still rages, circumstances demand that one should be called.

The Associations, through the United States Christian Commission, have become vitally connected with the spiritual and temporal welfare of the men of our army and navy. Hundreds of thousands of brave men, many of them from our own Associations and Sabbath schools, look mainly to us for earnest, able, prayerful men to establish prayer-meetings amongst them in their camps, preach the gospel, supply them with the Word of God, and religious books, papers, and tracts; and to be near them with kind Christian words and deeds if they fall wounded in battle, or lie suffering in the hospital, and, if they die, to point them to Jesus, and commend them in prayer to God as they pass through the valley and shadow of death.

This great work of the Associations, in connection with the Commission, has grown and is still growing into such vast importance as to demand prayerful and earnest consideration for its maintenance and extension fully to meet the wants of our army and navy.

There may also be occasion for remodelling the national organization, uniting the Associations, and there is great need that there be a new enkindling of the old fires which once burned so brightly, and, if possible, fanning them into a still brighter glow.

It is hoped that Associations will send as large a number of delegates as possible, who should notify H. D. Penfield, Corresponding Secretary, Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, Chicago, Illinois, of their intended coming, on or before the 25th of May, that accommodations may be provided. This is important, as the great Canal Convention, which it is supposed will draw together 50,000 people, is to be held the same week.

The Central Committee have arranged with the railroad companies to allow delegates to the Convention to pass over their roads at half fare.

The earnest prayers of God's people all over the land are solicited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Convention, to guide it in all

its deliberations, and cause it to be a blessing, not only to the army and navy, but to the whole population of the country.

GEORGE H. STUART,	} <i>Central Committee.</i>
GEORGE COOKMAN,	
JOHN W. SEXTON,	
JOHN WANAMAKER,	
JAMES GRANT,	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The members of the Executive Committee were informed of their appointment, by the Secretary of the Convention, and they were requested at once to return notice of their acceptance.

A meeting of the resident members was soon called, and the Committee was organized as follows:—

JOSEPH A. POND, *Chairman.*
 EDWARD G. TILESTON, *Corresponding Secretary.*
 CHARLES S. BUTLER, *Recording Secretary.*
 GEORGE P. DENNY, *Treasurer.*

It appeared that those who were appointed by the Convention had signified their acceptance, excepting Messrs. Dunn, Creever, Hardy, Dickinson, and Thresher.

The following appointments were made to complete the organization of the Committee:—

Resident Member — Charles S. Butler.
Wisconsin — Walter S. Carter, Milwaukee.
Minnesota — George W. Prescott, St. Paul.
Delaware — Rev. William Aikman, Wilmington.
Kansas — Rev. Isaac S. Kalloch, Ottawa.
Virginia — Rev. A. Gladwin, Alexandria.
West Virginia — Rev. Samuel B. Barnitz, Wheeling.
South Carolina — Rev. Joseph Henson, Port Royal.
Maryland — Rev. George P. Hays, Baltimore.
North Carolina — Rev. A. S. Lovell, Newbern.

Louisiana — Hon. R. K. Howell, New Orleans.
Arkansas — C. C. Thayer, Little Rock.
Oregon — Rev. Franklin S. Rising, Portland.
Nebraska — J. C. Hormel, Fremont.
Colorado — Rev. B. T. Vincent, Central City.
Nevada — Rev. P. Keiser, Virginia.
Idaho — George H. Preston, San Carlos City.
Arizona — Rev. H. W. Read, Fort Whipple.
Prince Edward Island — Rev. A. DesBrisay, Charlottetown.
Jamaica — George Henderson, Kingston.
Columbia — John T. Pidwell, Victoria, V. I.

The following articles appeared in the *Christian Watchman and Reflector*, of Boston, as a part of the series regularly contributed to that paper, styled "Watch-Notes": —

[From the *Watchman and Reflector*, May 29th.]

* * * * *

The young men of the country are soon to have a great festival in this city. We are glad to learn that, in addition to the series of anniversaries usually observed here in the month of May, the next Annual Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces will be held in Boston the first week in June. A social festival at the Music Hall, at which there will be several addresses and music, on Wednesday evening; a public meeting at the Old South Church on Thursday evening; a special meeting in behalf of the United States Christian Commission on Friday afternoon, and a mass meeting for the same cause on Friday evening, at Tremont Temple, are the salient points of the programme.

This Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations has become a great moral power in the land. We well remember when the first announcement of an association of this kind in Europe was sent forth in the columns of this paper. It awakened general attention. Associations of kindred character sprang up spontaneously over the breadth of this continent, "like willows by the water-courses." The Sunday-school institution had prepared their way by raising up a generation of young men qualified to act together in behalf of the common cause. They were successful. Hosts of youth, attracted to their standards and saved from social ruin, were their

trophies. These Associations were very effective in promoting the interests of religion during the great awakening that pervaded the land a few years ago ; and when the war broke out, they formed the convention that organized the Christian Commission, whose hundreds of delegates have been as angels of mercy on all our battle-fields, dispensing "the bread of life" to our armed hosts, and ministering both bodily and spiritual sustenance to the sick, the wounded, and the dying. Many a languid eye "that has seen them has borne witness to them," and the blessings of many ready to perish have come upon them. They have borne to many a desolate home the last loving messages of the departed husband, son, or brother, and caused the heart of many a mourner to sing for joy in nights of loneliness and sorrow.

This Convention has a brief but glorious history ; it has a bright career before it, and it deserves the thanks and confidence of the nation.

The delegates to this Convention will be received by a committee of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, at the rooms in the Tremont Temple. They will be welcomed as guests. We doubt not their number will be large, and that their meetings will do much to concentrate their forces for the work that is still before them.

HERBERT.

[From the Watchman and Reflector, June 9th.]

Boston has been bathed in an exhilarating festal atmosphere the last fortnight. After the cluster of religious anniversaries that signalized the week before last, the first day of June witnessed the advent of the General Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations pertaining to the United States and the British Provinces. From such a convention at the beginning of the war sprang forth the Christian Commission, over which George H. Stuart presides. As these two are one in spirit, the occasion brought together an array of genial, youthful Christian brothers and co-workers in a common service, the like of which is rarely seen in any land.

The programme, announced two weeks ago, has been followed out, and a great deal more than was promised has been realized. The excursion down the harbor to the Farm School, the visit to the public institutions at Deer Island, the welcome and entertainment of the municipal government at that place, and the reception at Fort Independence, were extemporized civilities that threw over the occasion the charm of a generous hospitality.

The influence of these five days' meetings will be long and widely felt. They have formed and strengthened ties of Christian friendship that extend across a continent, and bind together hosts of young men in a compact phalanx for effective service in the cause of Christ, of the country, and humanity. This union is a power that cannot be gauged with exactness. The Christian Commission is its child, born a giant, to grapple with the

evils of war, and make war itself minister to the spiritual welfare of the army and the people. A power like this, consecrated to a work so noble, is the gift of God to the whole nation ; and its very existence has been, from the first, a divine guarantee of victory.

This power is extending its field of work. It has a glorious future. It will be progressive. It is full of vitality. It is all alive with intellectual, social, and spiritual energies. When the war is closed it will take new directions, and will have much to do in Christianizing the social elements of city life, in carrying the banner of a "common faith" among the hosts without the precincts of the church, and in thus training up an army of Christian youth for the moral conflicts of a new era that is nigh at hand.

The farewell services were held at Tremont Temple, on Sunday evening. The house was thronged. On the platform were delegates from the chief cities of the United States, and young men of Irish and Scotch blood from the Canadas, loyal subjects of Queen Victoria, and yet with hearts that throbbed in sympathy with ours to the dear old flag of stars and stripes. They said they were surprised to see their American brothers so "terribly in earnest," and were exceedingly glad to find it so.

In estimating the moral forces of this Convention of Associations, their meetings for prayer must not be overlooked. They seemed most strong when bowing together with a sense of weakness before the Heavenly Throne. And there they were bound together in a relation that cannot be dissolved, by subtle ties that political changes can never break. There is no secrecy ; all is open, free as air ; but they understand each other without signs or pass-words, and form a body as well compacted as that which Loyola organized by oaths and vows of obedience to a common head.

The farewell address, by the President, was an apt and strong expression of these deep-toned sympathies, and was responded to by hearts that beat as the heart of one. Let the old men of New England, let the fathers and mothers who read these lines take comfort from them, remembering that there is in them no exaggeration, but that they are an inadequate statement of a great fact that is replete with hopefulness. Give place to this blessed brotherhood in your hearts' affections and your prayers, and teach your sons to honor it, and to cherish in boyhood the laudable ambition to enrol themselves in its ranks for faithful service. In its halls, its libraries, its reading-rooms, its devotional meetings, and social gatherings, they will inhale a quickening and healthful atmosphere.

If we read the signs of the sky aright, we are now entering upon a period of American history wherein patriotism must find its chief scope in building up and establishing the religious and philanthropic institutions of the country. The exigencies of the war have educated wealthy men to give money on a large scale. These demands are but temporary. The

appeals from battle-fields will cease. Then wealth will be increased in an unprecedented degree, in spite of incidental reverses, and unless Americans learn to invest wealth in those institutions which work together for the elevation of character and for the training of generations to noble aims and services for Christ and humanity, our prosperity will insure disintegration, like that which befell the old Roman empire, out of whose fragments modern civilization has been reconstructed. That empire passed through a century of mortal agonies; and unless our great wealth can be made to subserve the interests of Christ's kingdom, it will become to us a bane and a curse, enfolding a ruin as tremendous.

With these views it is a fit subject of daily prayer that the Christian men who wield a large share of the money power in this land may have "an understanding of the times," and may "devise liberal things" accordingly.

HERBERT.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1864-5.

Head-Quarters, Tremont Temple, . . . Boston, Mass.

RESIDENT MEMBERS.

JOSEPH A. POND	Chairman.
EDWARD G. TILESTON	Corresponding Secretary.
CHARLES S. BUTLER	Recording Secretary.
GEORGE P. DENNY	Treasurer.
CHARLES H. PRICE	Salem, Mass.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

<i>Maine</i>	THOMAS R. HAYES, Portland.
<i>New Hampshire</i>	REV. HENRY CHANDLER, Sandown.
<i>Vermont</i>	FRANK S. WHITE, Bennington.
<i>Massachusetts</i>	FRANKLIN W. SMITH, Boston.
<i>Rhode Island</i>	JOHN A. COLEMAN, Providence.
<i>Connecticut</i>	ELIAS B. STEVENS, Danbury.
<i>New York</i>	WILLIAM E. DODGE, JR., New York.
<i>New Jersey</i>	JOHN MOSES, Trenton.
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	PETER B. SIMONS, Philadelphia.
<i>Maryland</i>	REV. GEORGE P. HAYS, Baltimore.
<i>District of Columbia</i>	WILLIAM J. RHEES, Washington.
<i>Virginia</i>	REV. A. GLADWIN, Alexandria.
<i>West Virginia</i>	REV. SAMUEL B. BARNITZ, Wheeling.
<i>Tennessee</i>	K. A. BURNELL, Memphis.
<i>Ohio</i>	H. THANE MILLER, Cincinnati.
<i>Michigan</i>	SILAS FARMER, Detroit.
<i>Indiana</i>	REV. J. P. SAFFORD, D. D., New Albany.
<i>Illinois</i>	REV. N. D. WILLIAMSON, Chicago.
<i>Missouri</i>	ISAAC S. SMYTH, St. Louis.
<i>Iowa</i>	WILLIAM MILLS, Dubuque.
<i>Wisconsin</i>	WALTER S. CARTER, Milwaukee.
<i>California</i>	JOSIAH BACON, San Francisco.
<i>Minnesota</i>	GEORGE W. PRESCOTT, St. Paul.
<i>Kansas</i>	REV. ISAAC S. KALLOCK, Ottawa.
<i>Nebraska</i>	JOHN C. HORMEL, Fremont.
<i>Canada East</i>	J. REDPATH DOUGALL, Montreal.
<i>Canada West</i>	REV. CHARLES P. WATSON, London.
<i>New Brunswick</i>	EDWARD E. LOCKHART, St. John.
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	JAMES FARQUHAR, Halifax.

The following additional appointments have been made, but notice of acceptance has not yet been received:—

<i>Delaware</i>	REV. WILLIAM AIKMAN, Wilmington.
<i>North Carolina</i>	REV. A. S. LOVELL, Newbern.
<i>South Carolina</i>	REV. JOSEPH HENSON, Port Royal.
<i>Louisiana</i>	HON. R. K. HOWELL, New Orleans.
<i>Arkansas</i>	C. C. THAYER, Little Rock.
<i>Kentucky</i>	JOSEPH E. HARDY, Louisville.
<i>Oregon</i>	REV. FRANKLIN S. RISING, Portland.
<i>Nevada</i>	REV. P. KEISER, Virginia.
<i>Colorado</i>	REV. B. T. VINCENT, Central City.
<i>Idaho</i>	GEORGE H. PRESTON, San Carlos City.
<i>Arizona</i>	REV. H. W. READ, Fort Whipple.
<i>Dacotah</i>	REV. L. P. JUDSON, Yankton.
<i>Jamaica</i>	GEORGE HENDERSON, Kingston.
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	REV. A. DES BRISAY, Charlottetown.
<i>Columbia</i>	JOHN T. PIDWELL, Victoria, V. I.

