Robert R. McBurney, c. 1883

Robert R. McBurney, c. 1883

A portrait photograph Robert Ross McBurney, c. 1883.

Under McBurney's leadership, the association grew and moved several times into larger quarters. In 1870, the YMCA moved into its own building, designed by McBurney, to accommodate the specific membership and program needs of the Y. Over the next seven years, McBurney oversaw the development of nine more facilities as well as a dramatic increase in membership. He was an outspoken advocate of the "fourfold purpose," incorporating physical activity as part of the Y's mission when the idea was controversial.

He developed the "Metropolitan Association" model of a semi-autonomous branch network with one central administrative authority. Robert McBurney also served in senior leadership roles for the International Committee, the precursor of today's YMCA of the USA. One of his biographers wrote that McBurney's influence on the YMCA movement was "profound, exceeding that of any other man."

The handwritten caption on the verso of the photoboard reads "Robert McBurney 1883."
Virtual Exhibit Identifier
IMLS-YMCA (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/IMLS-YMCA/field/virtua/mode/exact/conn/and)
YMCA-HOF (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/YMCA-HOF/field/virtua/mode/exact/conn/and)

Rights
Text and images are owned, held, or licensed by Springfield College and are available for personal, non-commercial, and educational use, provided that ownership is properly cited. A credit line is required and should read: Courtesy of Springfield College, Archives and Special Collections. Any commercial use without written permission from Springfield College is strictly prohibited. Other individuals or entities other than, and in addition to, Springfield College may also own copyrights and other propriety rights. The publishing, exhibiting, or broadcasting party assumes all responsibility for clearing reproduction rights and for any infringement of United States copyright law.
A VERY IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

A SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN SPRINGFIELD.

INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN IN PRACTICAL CHURCH AND MISSION WORK.

THE PLANS AND PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL OUTLINED—THE COURSE OF STUDY, THE ORGANIZATION, ETC.

A meeting was held last evening at the house of Rev. D. A. Reed to organize a school for Christian workers. Rev. Dr. S. G. Buckingham was chosen chairman. Most of the gathering present had had the matter explained to them and had signed the paper necessary to form a legal corporation. Mr. Reed said he had found by experience and investigation a great need of trained workers, especially in these three departments: As secretaries for Young Men's Christian associations, as superintendents of Sunday schools, and as helpers for pastors in mission work and in the general work of the church. One reason why ministers in our cities break down today, is because of the details requiring time, and the anxiety over the Sunday school work and the work for young people. Almost all of this work and anxiety could be taken from the pastor and the strength and efficiency of the church be greatly increased, through the agency of a young man earnest, enthusiastic, consecrated to Christ and trained for this purpose. Some churches already pay men to devote their whole time to this work and every large church can afford to do this, because the Sunday school would be more prosperous, the young people would be bound more strongly to the church, young converts could be better developed into active Christian workers, and be set and kept at work, and thus the financial ability of the church be increased far more than the salary of the trained superintendent or helper, not to speak of the great spiritual advantage to the church.

The object of this school, then, is to train men to be secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations, superintendents of Sunday schools, helpers to pastors in mission work and the general work of the church, Bible colporteurs and readers. The school is in no way to interfere with the work of theological seminaries, opening a door to a short cut to the ministry. Who are the men and where are they to be found? Experience and testimony have shown that there are many young men in the large towns and cities who have unusual ability to do the work proposed, and who want to dedicate themselves to Christian work, but who do not know how to begin or where to go. The college course and regular ministry seem closed to them from financial reasons or because of age. These men are known to pastors and secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations as faithful, efficient workers, so far as their time permits, and it is hoped that when the existence of this school is known many of them will be encouraged to give all their time to Christian work and enter this school for special training. The course of study will include Bible history; systematic study of the great fundamental truths common to all evangelical denominations as sin, redemption, faith, justification, the divinity of Christ, the Holy Spirit, prayer, etc.; comparing Scripture and Scripture; study of the biographies of the Bible; practice in unfolding Scripture in the prayer meeting and leading Sunday school teachers' meetings; methods of dealing with inquirers; the history of Christianity; showing the difficulties met, the guidance and blessing of God in the progress of the Gospel; the lives of the most noted men of God and the characteristics of their work; the kind of teaching and life which God has honored most in advancing his cause; the history and literature of the Young Men's Christian associations; the history and literature of the Sunday school; practice in all branches of lay work; instruction in vocal music and gymnastics. The time will be two years and the school year will be from September to June. The school is to be strictly undenominational in its character and no views peculiar to any denomination will be taught. The young men will all be members of churches when they enter and will be expected to go into the churches of their respective denominations in the city and help in church work.

The organization will be a legal corporation with president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, a board of trustees and an executive committee. The teachers for the first year are as follows: Rev. Theron H. Hawkes, Rev. S. L. Merritt, Rev. L. L. Potter, Rev. T. W. Bishop, Rev. D. A. Reed, Rev. Orville Reed, Rev. Dr. Pentecost of Brooklyn and Mr. S. M. Sayford of Newton. The school has agreed to come and give a course of Bible readings and practical talks. It is also expected that Mr. Dwight L. Moody of Northfield will visit the school and make one or two addresses during the year. The following is a list of the gentlemen interested in the officers chosen last night for the first year: Rev. Dr. S. G. Buckingham, Rev. T. W. Bishop, Homer Merriam, Charles H. Barrows, Dr.

The school will open the first Monday in January, 1856, and the reading room and parlor of the Armory Hill Young Men's Christian association will be used as recitation rooms. The lot on the corner of State and Sherman streets has been secured and plans are being drawn for a suitable building to be erected in the early spring. Any one desirous of entering the school should apply for information to the secretary, S. L. Merrill, 144 Buckingham street, Springfield, Mass. Any one desirous of aiding the work by contributions will please send the money to Henry S. Lee, treasurer of the Springfield Institution for Savings.
TRANSCRIPT

THE SPRINGFIELD UNION Nov. 26, 1884

A VERY IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

A SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN SPRINGFIELD.

INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN IN PRACTICAL CHURCH AND MISSION WORK.


A meeting was held last evening at the house of Rev. D.A. Reed to organize a school for Christian workers. Rev. Dr. S.G. Buckingham was chosen as chairman. Most of the gathering present had had the matter explained to them and had signed the paper necessary to form a legal corporation. Mr. Reed said be had found by experience and investigation a great need of trained workers, especially in these three departments: As secretaries for Young Men’s Christian associations, as superintendents of Sunday schools, and as helpers for pastors in mission work and in the general work of the church. One reason why ministers in our cities break down, to-day, is because of the details requiring time, and the anxiety over the Sunday school work and the work for young people. Almost all of this work and anxiety could be taken from the pastor and the strength and efficiency of the church be greatly increased, through the agency of a young man earnest, enthusiastic, consecrated to Christ and trained for this purpose. Some churches already pay men to devote their whole time to this work and every large church can afford to do this, because the Sunday school would be more prosperous, the young people would be bound more strongly to the church, young converts could be better developed into active Christian workers, and be set and kept at work, and thus the financial ability of the church be increased far more than the salary of the trained superintendent or helper, not to speak of the great spiritual advantage to the church.

The object of this school, then, is to train men to be secretaries of Young Men’s Christian associations, superintendents of Sunday schools, helpers to pastors in mission work and the general work of the church. Bible colporteurs [someone employed by a religious society to distribute bibles and other religious tracts] and readers. The school is in no way to interfere with the work of theological seminaries[,] opening a door to a short cut to the reg[ular] ministry. Who are the men and where are they to be found? Experience and testimony have shown that there are many young men in the large towns and cities who have unusual ability to do the work proposed, and who want to dedicate themselves to Christian work, but who do not know how to begin or where to go. The college course and regular ministry seem closed to them from financial reasons or because of age. These men are known to pastors and secretaries of Young Men’s Christian associations as faithful, efficient works, so far as their time permits, and it is hoped that when the existence of this school is known man of them will be encouraged to give all their time to Christian work and enter this school for special training. The course of study will included Bible history: systematic study of the great fundamental truths.
A School For Christian Workers to be Established in Springfield

- The Student Union (1884), Nov. 26, 1884

The Student Union; Springfield College Archives and Special Collections

common to all evangelical denominations as sin, redemption, faith justification, the divinity of Christ, the Holy Spirit, prayer, etc.; comparing Scripture with Scripture, study of the biographies of the Bible; practice in unfolding Scripture in the prayer meeting and leading Sunday school teachers’ meetings; methods of dealing with inquirers; the history of Christianity; showing the difficulties met; the guidance and blessing of God in the progress of the Gospel; the lives of the most noted men of God and the characteristics of their work; the kind of teaching and life which God has honored most in advancing his cause; the history and literature of the Young Men’s Christian associations; the history and literature of the Sunday school; practice in all branches of lay work; instruction in vocal music and gymnastics. The time will be two years and the school year will be from September to June. The school is to be strictly undenominational in its character and no views peculiar to any denomination will be taught. The young men will all be members of churches when they enter and will be expected to go into the churches of their respective denominations in the city and help in church work.

The organization will be a legal corporation with president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, a board of trustees and an executive committee. The teachers for the first year are as follows: Rev. Theron H. Hawkes, Rev. S.I. Merrell, Rev. L.L. Potter, Rev. T.W. Bishop, Rev. D.A. Reed, Rev. Orville Reed. Rev. Dr. Pentecost of Brooklyn and Mr. S. M. Sayford of Newton have agreed to come and give a course of Bible readings and practical talks. It is also expected that Mr. Dwight L. Moody of Northfield will visit the school and make one or two addresses during the year. The following is a list of the gentlemen interested and the officers chosen last night for the first year: Rev. Dr. S.G. Buckingham, Rev. T.W. Bishop, Homer Merriam, Charles H. Barrows, Dr. T.L. Chapman, H.P. Stone, J.H. Appleton, E. Potter Dyer, S.F. Chester, Noyes W. Fisk, George W. Tapley, H.C. Rowley, T.L. Haynes, George A. Eills, T.H. Stock, Henry S. Lee, Horace Smith, Hery S. Lee, Horace Smith, Charles March, C.H. Southworth, Rev. Lester L. Potter, E.C. Rogers, L.C. Smith, Edward Ingersoll, H.M. Brewster, Charles E. Brown. The officer for one year are as follows: President, Rev. D.A. Reed of this city; vice president, R.R. McBurney of New York; secretary, Rev. S.L. Merrell of this city; treasurer, Henry S. Lee of this city; trustees, D.L. Moody of Northfield, George W. Tupley of this city, R.S. Morse of New York, H.H. Moore of Boston, E.C. Rogers of this city, Russell Sturges, Jr., of Boston, Charles H. Barrows of this city, C.H. Southworth of this city, Charles Marsh of this city, W.F. Lee of New York, S.F. Chester of this city, Rev. Dr. E.A. Red of New York, Noyes W. Fisk, H.P. Stone and H.M. Brewster of this city, and the officers, ex-officio.

The school will open the first Monday in January, 1885, and the reading room and parlor of the Armory Hill Young Men’s Christian association will be used as recitation rooms. The lot on the corner of State and Sherman streets has been secured and plans are being drawn for a suitable building to be erected in the early spring. Any one desirous of entering the school shoule apply for information to the secretary, S. [Samuel] L. Merrill, 144 Buckingham street, Springfield, Mass. Any one desirous of aiding the work by contributions will please send the money to Henry S. Lee, treasurer of the Springfield Institution for Savings.

A School For Christian Workers to be Established in Springfield - The Student Union (1884)
A School For Christian Workers to be Established in Springfield

A VERY IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

A SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN SPRINGFIELD.

INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN IN PRACTICAL CHURCH AND MISSION WORK.

THE PLANS AND PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL OUTLINED—THE COURSE OF STUDY, THE ORGANIZATION, ETC.

A meeting was held last evening at the house of Rev. D. A. Reed to organize a school for Christian workers. Rev. Dr. S. G. Buckingham was chosen chairman. Most of the gathering present had had the matter explained to them and had signed the paper necessary to form a legal corporation. Mr. Reed said he had found by experience and investigation a great need of trained workers, especially in these three departments: As secretaries for Young Men's Christian associations, as superintendents of Sunday schools, and as helpers for pastors in mission work and in the general work of the church. One reason why ministers in our cities break down today, is because of the details requiring time, and the anxiety over the Sunday school work and the work for young people. Almost all of this work and anxiety could be taken from the pastor and the strength and efficiency of the church be greatly increased, through the agency of a young man earnest, enthusiastic, consecrated to Christ and trained for this purpose. Some churches already pay men to devote their whole time to this work and every large church can afford to do this, because the Sunday school would be more prosperous, the young people would be bound more strongly to the church, young converts could be better developed into active Christian workers, and be set and kept at work, and thus the financial ability of the church be increased far more than the salary of the trained superintendent or helper, not to speak of the great spiritual advantage to the church.

The object of this school, then, is to train men to be secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations, superintendents of Sunday schools, helpers to pastors in mission work and the general work of the church, Bible colporteurs and readers. The school has no way to interfere with the work of theological seminaries; opening a door to a short cut to the regi

ministry, who are the men and where are they to be found? Experience and testimony have shown that there are many young men in the large towns and cities who have unusual ability to do the work proposed, and who want to dedicate themselves to Christian work, but who do not know how to begin or where to go. The college course and regular ministry seem closed to them from financial reasons or because of age. These men are known to pastors, and secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations as faithful, efficient workers, so far as their time permits, and it is hoped that when the existence of this school is known many of them will be encouraged to give all their time to Christian work and enter this school for special training. The course of study will include Bible history; systematic study of the great fundamental truths common to all evangelical denominations as sin, redemption, faith, justification, the divinity of Christ, the Holy Spirit, prayer, etc.; comparing Scripture with Scripture; study of the biographies of the Christian practice in unfolding Scripture in the prayer meetings and leading Sunday school teachers' meetings; methods of dealing with inquirers: the history of Christianity; showing the difficulties met, the guidance and blessing of God in the progress of the Gospel; the lives of the most noted men of God and the characteristics of their work; the kind of teaching and life which God has honored most in advancing his cause: the history and literature of the Young Men's Christian associations; the history and literature of the Sunday school: practice in all branches of lay work; instruction in vocal music and gymnastics. The time will be two years and the school year will be from September to June. The school is to be strictly undenominational in its character and no views peculiar to any denomination will be taught. The young men will all be members of churches when they enter and will be expected to go into the churches of their respective denominations in the city and help in church work.

The organization will be a legal corporation with president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, a board of trustees and an executive committee. The teachers for the first year are as follows: Rev. Therion H. Hawkes, Rev. S. L. Merrill, Rev. L. L. Potter, Rev. W. T. Bishop, Rev. D. A. Reed, Rev. Orville Reed. Rev. Dr. Pemberton of Brooklyn and Mr. S. M. Sayford of Newton have agreed to come and give a course of Bible readings and practical talks. It is also expected that Mr. Dwight L. Moody of Northfield will visit the school and make one or two addresses during the year. The following is a list of the gentlemen interested and the officers chosen last night for the first year: Rev. Dr. S. G. Buckingham, Rev. T. W. Bishop, Homer Merriman, Charles H. Barrows, Dr.
A VERY IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.
A SCHOOL FOR TRAINED CHRISTIAN WORKERS
TO RESIDE IN SPRINGFIELD.

INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN IN PRACTICAL STUDIES IN MISSION WORK.

THE PURPOSES OF THE SCHOOL OUTLINED—

A meeting was held last evening at the home of Rev. P. A. Reed to organize a school for Christian workers. Rev. Dr. S. G. Buckingham was chosen chairman. Most of the gathering present had had the matter explained to them and had signed the paper necessary to form a legal corporation.

Mr. Reed said he had found by experience and investigation a great need of trained workers, especially:

- secretaries for Young Men's Christian associations,
- superintendents of Sunday schools,
- and as helpers for pastors in mission work and in the general work of the church.

One reason why ministers in our cities find work today is because of the details requiring time, and the anxiety over the Sunday school work and the work for young people. Almost all of this work and anxiety could be taken from the pastor and the strength and efficiency of the church be greatly increased, through the agency of a young earnest, enthusiastic, consecrated to Christ and trained for this purpose. Some churches already pay men to devote their whole time to this work and every large church can afford to do this, because the Sunday school would be more prosperous, the young people would be bound more strongly to the church, young converts could be better developed into active Christian workers, and be set and kept at work, and thus the financial ability of the church be increased far more than the salary of the trained superintendent or helper, not to
speak of the great spiritual advantage to
the church.
The object of this school, then, is to train
men to be secretaries of Young Men's
Christian associations, superintendents of
Sunday schools, helpers to pastors in mission
work and the general work of the church,
Bible colporteurs and readers.
The school is in no way to interfere
with the work of theological seminaries ir
opening a door to a short cut to the regi,

ministry, who are the men anywhere are
they to be found? Experience and testimony have shown that there are many
young men in the large towns and cities
who have unusual ability to do the work
proposed, and who want to dedicate themselves to Christian work,
but who do not know how
to begin or where to go. The college
course and regular ministry seem closed to
them from financial reasons or because of
8ge. These men are known to pastors and
secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations as faithful, efficient workers, so far
as their time permits, and it is hoped that
when the existence of this school is known
many of them will be encouraged to give
all their time to Christian work and enter
this school for special training. The course
of study will include Bible history; systematic study of the great fundamental
truths common to all evangelical denominations as sin, redemption, faith, justification,
the divinity of (jurist.the Holy Spirit, prayer,eic.; comparing Scripture with Scripture;
study of the biographies of the Bible;
practice in unfolding Scripture in the
prayer meeting and leading Sunday school
teachers' meetings; methods of dealing
with inquirers: the history of Christianity;
Showing the difficulties met. the guidance
and blessing of (Sod in the progress of tin;
Gospel; the lives of the most noted men of
God and the characteristics of their work;
the kind of teaching and life which God has
honored most in advancing his cause: the
history and literature of the Young Men's
Christian associations; the history and
literature of the Sunday school; practice in
All branches of lay work; instruction in
vocal music and gymnastics. The time will
be two years and the school year
will be from September to June.
The school is to be strictly undenominational in its character and no views peculiar to any denomination will be
taught.
The young men will all be members at
churches when they enter and will be expected to go into the churches of their respective denominations in the city
and help
in church work.
The organization will be a legal corporation with president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, a board of
trustees and
an executive committee. The teachers for
the first year are as follows: Rev. Theron
H. Hawks, Rev. S. L. Merrell, Rev. L. L.
Potter. Rev. T. W. Bishop, Rev. D. A.
Hill, Rev. Orville Reed. Rev. Dr. Pentecost of Brooklyn and Mr. S.
M. Sayford of Newton have
agreed to come and give a course of Bible
readings and practical talks. It is also expected that Mr. Dwight L. Moody of Northfield will visit the school and make one or
two addresses during the year. The following is a list of the gentlemen interested
in the officers chosen last night for the first
year: Rev. Dr. S. G. Buckingham, Rev. T. W. Bishop,
Homer Merriam, Charles II. Barrows, Dr.

Object Description

Title
A School For Christian Workers to be Established in Springfield - The Student Union (1884)

Description
This article from The Springfield Union, published on November 26, 1884, is about the intentions and purpose of the
School for Christian Workers, now Springfield College. The School for Christian Workers was founded in 1885 at
Winchester Square in Springfield, Massachusetts, by Rev. David Allen Reed. The building was located on the corner
of State Street and Sherman Street. The purpose of the facility was to train young men for the duties of the general
secretaries of the Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA), gymnasium instructors, and superintendents of
Sunday Schools and pastors' helpers. The course of study offered by the school spanned two years, and covered
classes in Bible history, Bible truth, the evidences of Christianity, the history of Christianity, Christian missions,
Christian ethics, the history, literature, and methods of the Young Men's Christian Associations, the Sunday School,
etc. The School for Christian Workers was incorporated on January 28, 1885 and it opened on September 8, 1885.
The total cost of the building was $43,485.09.
The Call for Trained Laymen for Religious Work.

My answer to the first question is, that there are nine hundred and twenty-nine Young Men's Christian associations in this country alone, and the number is increasing rapidly every year. Over 300 of these associations employ one or more men as secretaries, who devote their whole time to work for young men, and who are paid a regular salary. These associations are also increasing rapidly in foreign countries, and as the methods of work employed in this land are considered to be the best, arrangements are already being made to send men here from these foreign associations to learn our methods of work.

The international committee want five men per month this year to fill positions as secretaries in this country. Now there is perhaps no profession in which such varied and peculiar qualifications are needed to insure success. Besides tact and common sense secretaries should have at least a fair general education, should be able to teach the Bible, to lead in singing, to direct in the gymnasium, and if there is no regular instructor to fit some one for that position. They should know the very best methods for reaching and holding young men, and how to organize and direct these methods. They should know how to study men and detect their great needs. They should have spiritual power. They should know certain business principles in order to conduct the financial affairs of the association. They should know much of the history of Christianity and understand the lives of eminent Christian men in order that they may be encouraged in their difficult work. There is no school for the training of these young men, and if there were no other lines of work asking for trained laymen, the Young Men's Christian associations alone need this school. But the demand for pastors' helpers in our larger cities is also very great. The mission work especially requires laymen with most, if not all, of the qualifications of the Young Men's Christian associations, men who are not obliged to write sermons nor spend their time with the duties peculiar only to the ministry, but who can devote all their time to practical or personal, as distinct from literary or pulpit work. A gentleman, who has been studying

The Problem of Mission Work

In our large cities, says he that believes the masses will only be reached and helped successfully by hand to hand work and that trained laymen are best calculated to do this. These men will also be specially trained for Sunday school work, which requires much time. Statistics show that there are hundreds of thousands of children in this land out of the Sunday school and outside of all religious influences. These might be gathered in by the personal work or under the direction of these trained men and all the work of the Sunday school be made more effective. Already positions have been offered for more than one hundred men trained to be pastors' helpers. The applications received with the class which has now entered, every room in the new building now being erected, will be taken next fall.

The Training Which the School Will Give.

1. Can these men be trained for this work? The course of study and practice arranged for this school covers all of the requisites mentioned above as specially necessary for this work. I give the outline of the course, which takes two years: Bible history and systematic Bible truth, the evidences of Christianity, the history of Christianity, Christian missions, Church ethics, the history, literature and methods of the Young Men's Christian associations, the Sunday school, prayer meeting and its methods, the special work of the inquiry room, the lives of eminent and successful Christian workers, outlines of history and rhetoric, eloquence, composition, rules for deliberative bodies, vocal music and gymnastics. Besides the corps of regular daily instructors there are a number of men eminent in their fields of labor, such as Mr. Moody, Rev. Dr. Gordon, Messrs. McBurney, Morse and Wissard and other Christian association men. Rev. Dr. Vincent, Rev. Dr. Pentecost and Prof. Riddle of Hartford, who will meet the students during the year and give them all the inspiration and help that can be drawn from their accumulated knowledge and ripe experience. The men will also have practical work in the churches and Young Men's Christian associations in the city during their entire stay here, as the school requires that each student shall unite with and work with some church of his own denomination.

In order to afford them larger experience, those who go into association work will be placed with successful secretaries in other cities during the vacations, while arrangements have been made to afford the same opportunities to those who enter the other lines of work. I might add here that before any man is received his case is thoroughly investigated as to his qualifications for the work, the same searching process being used as that employed by Braddock's commercial agency.

In Conclusion.

These facts certainly answer the three great questions in which the success of this enterprise is involved. All other questions than those based on these questions it would seem are not worthy of more attention here than in considering any other educational or business enterprise. There is a pressing demand for laymen, especially trained for these special lines of lay work. There are many laymen anxious to be trained. This school is established to help men get this training, and we sincerely desire the prayers and help of all who are interested in aggressive Christian work.

The following with regard to Mr. J. C. Bowman, who has come from another field to devote his life in the school as the head of the Young Men's Christian association department. Is from four of the most widely
SOME LEADING FACTS.

CONCERNING THE SCHOOLS FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS IN THIS CITY.

To the Editor of The Union:

In response to your request for a statement of the School for Christian Workers, in the interest of which I have the honor of being a member, I have written a letter to the Secretary of the Board of Education, and have been requested to make a public announcement of the facts relating to the school and its work.

The School for Christian Workers is a denominational institution, established for the purpose of training young men for the ministry. The courses of study consist of theological and practical subjects, with a view to fit the students for the work of the ministry. The school is conducted by a board of trustees, consisting of representatives of the denomination.

The school has a capacity of 200 students, and is located in the heart of the city, near the principal churches and institutions of learning.

The faculty includes well-known scholars and distinguished clergymen, who are pledged to devote their energies to the training of young men for the ministry.

Applications for admission are now being received, and the school is open to all who may wish to enter.

S. D. F. A.
Robert R. McBurney YMCA Life Member Certificate, 1876

This is to certify that

Robert R. McBurney

is a Life Member of the
Young Men's Christian Association
of New York City.

Dated June 8th, 1876

[Signature]

[Note: The image contains illustrations and text in a decorative style.]
Title
Robert R. McBurney YMCA Life Member Certificate, 1876

Description
A certificate of Life Membership to the YMCA of New York City given to Robert Ross McBurney. The certificate is dated June 8, 1876 and is signed by W.E. Dodge Jr., President and E.A. Bennett. Under McBurney's leadership, the association grew and moved several times into larger quarters. In 1870, the YMCA moved into its own building, designed by McBurney, to accommodate the specific membership and program needs of the Y. Over the next seven years, McBurney oversaw the development of nine more facilities as well as a dramatic increase in membership. He was an outspoken advocate of the “fourfold purpose,” incorporating physical activity as part of the Y’s mission when the idea was controversial.

He developed the “Metropolitan Association” model of a semi-autonomous branch network with one central administrative authority. Robert McBurney also served in senior leadership roles for the International Committee, the precursor of today’s YMCA of the USA. One of his biographers wrote that McBurney’s influence on the YMCA movement was “profound, exceeding that of any other man.”

Springfield College Subjects
Springfield College /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
Springfield College--Trustees /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College--Trustees/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
Young Men’s Christian Association of North America /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Young Men's Christian Association of North America/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)

People

Keywords
Certificates /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Certificates/field/keywor/mode/exact/conn/and)

Creator

Publisher
Springfield College /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College/field/publis/mode/exact/conn/and)

Date Created
1876-06-08

Language
en-US

File Name
SC15089

Extent
34.75 x 33 cm

File Format
Text/jpg

File Type
Text

Master File Format
Text/tiff

Date Digital Object Created
2011-07-05

Collection Title
Trustee Records /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Trustee Records/field/relati/mode/exact/conn/and)

Collection Folder Number
McBurney, Robert

Item Notes
The certificate has some damage along the right edge and is encased in mylar with board backing. In addition, the scanned image cuts off some of the original document.

Virtual Exhibit Identifier
YMCA-HOF /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/YMCA-HOF/field/virtua/mode/exact/conn/and)
IMLS-YMCA /digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/IMLS-YMCA/field/virtua/mode/exact/conn/and)
McBurney's Tower Room, c. 1876

A photograph of the "tower" room McBurney used in the the old 23rd St YMCA building in New York City, c. 1876. When Robert McBurney arrived in the United States from Ireland in 1854, he took a room at a YMCA and eight years later, he became the only employed staff person of the New York City YMCA. He was responsible for taking care of the library and programs in the few rented rooms that made up the association.

Under McBurney's leadership, the association grew and moved several times into larger quarters. In 1870, the YMCA moved into its own building, designed by McBurney, to accommodate the specific membership and program needs of the Y. Over the next seven years, McBurney oversaw the development of nine more facilities as well as a dramatic increase in membership. He was an outspoken advocate of the "fourfold purpose," incorporating physical activity as part of the Y's mission when the idea was controversial.

He developed the "Metropolitan Association" model of a semi-autonomous branch network with one central administrative authority. Robert McBurney also served in senior leadership roles for the International Committee, the predecessor of today's YMCA of the USA. One of his biographers wrote that McBurney's influence on the YMCA movement was "profound, exceeding that of any other man." In 1991, McBurney was inducted in the YMCA Hall of Fame.

Springfield College Subjects
Springfield College (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
Springfield College--Trustees (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College--Trustees/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
Young Men's Christian Association of North America (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Young Men's Christian Association of North America/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
People
McBurney, Robert Ross, 1837-1898

Publisher
Springfield College

Date Created
1876?

File Name
SC18838

File Format
Image/jpg

File Type
Image

Date Digital Object Created
2011-07-14

Collection Title
Trustee Records

Collection Folder Number
McBurney, Robert

Item Notes
The photograph is mounted on 29.5 x 24.5 cm. cardboard which is damaged in the upper right corner.

Virtual Exhibit Identifier
IMLS-YMCA
YMCA-HOF

Rights
Text and images are owned, held, or licensed by Springfield College and are available for personal, non-commercial, and educational use, provided that ownership is properly cited. A credit line is required and should read: Courtesy of Springfield College, Archives and Special Collections. Any commercial use without written permission from Springfield College is strictly prohibited. Other individuals or entities other than, and in addition to, Springfield College may also own copyrights and other propriety rights. The publishing, exhibiting, or broadcasting party assumes all responsibility for clearing reproduction rights and for any infringement of United States copyright law.
Robert R. McBurney

Item Description

Title
Robert R. McBurney
Description

Historical Information
Under McBurney's leadership, the association grew and moved several times into larger quarters. In 1870, the YMCA moved into its own building, designed by McBurney, to accommodate the specific membership and program needs of the Y. Over the next seven years, McBurney oversaw the development of nine more facilities as well as a dramatic increase in membership. He was an outspoken advocate of the "fourfold purpose," incorporating physical activity as part of the Y's mission when the idea was controversial.

He developed the "Metropolitan Association" model of a semi-autonomous branch network with one central administrative authority. Robert McBurney also served in senior leadership roles for the International Committee, the precursor of today's YMCA of the USA. One of his biographers wrote that McBurney's influence on the YMCA movement was "profound, exceeding that of any other man."

Springfield College Subjects
[Young Men's Christian Association of North America](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Young Men's Christian Association of North America/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
[Springfield College--Trustees](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College--Trustees/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
[Springfield College](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)

People

Keywords
[Portraits](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Portraits/field/keywor/mode/exact/conn/and)
[Mustaches](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Mustaches/field/keywor/mode/exact/conn/and)

Publisher
[Springfield College](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Springfield College/field/publis/mode/exact/conn/and)

Date Created
1883-1898

File Name
LS-02-21

File Format
Image/jpg

File Type
[Image](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Image/field/type/mode/exact/conn/and)

Master File Format
Image/tiff

Date Digital Object Created
2003-03-24

Collection Title
[Lantern Slide Collection](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Lantern Slide Collection/field/relati/mode/exact/conn/and)

Collection Box Number
02

Collection Item Number
21

Collection Status
Processed

Item Notes
Lantern slide is cracked and the upper left corner is broken off.

Virtual Exhibit Identifier
[IMLS-YMCA](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/IMLS-YMCA/field/virtua/mode/exact/conn/and)
[YMCA-HOF](/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/YMCA-HOF/field/virtua/mode/exact/conn/and)

Rights
Text and images are owned, held, or licensed by Springfield College and are available for personal, non-commercial, and educational use, provided that ownership is properly cited. A credit line is required and should read: Courtesy of Springfield College, Archives and Special Collections. Any commercial use without written permission from Springfield College is strictly prohibited. Other individuals or entities other than, and in addition to, Springfield College may also own copyrights and other proprietary rights. The publishing, exhibiting, or broadcasting party assumes all responsibility for clearing reproduction rights and for any infringement of United States copyright law.
Robert R. McBurney

Item Description

Title
Robert R. McBurney

Description
A portrait photograph Robert Ross McBurney.
Historical Information
Under McBurney’s leadership, the association grew and moved several times into larger quarters. In 1870, the YMCA moved into its own building, designed by McBurney, to accommodate the specific membership and program needs of the Y. Over the next seven years, McBurney oversaw the development of nine more facilities as well as a dramatic increase in membership. He was an outspoken advocate of the “fourfold purpose,” incorporating physical activity as part of the Y’s mission when the idea was controversial.

He developed the “Metropolitan Association” model of a semi-autonomous branch network with one central administrative authority. Robert McBurney also served in senior leadership roles for the International Committee, the precursor of today’s YMCA of the USA. One of his biographers wrote that McBurney’s influence on the YMCA movement was “profound, exceeding that of any other man.”

Springfield College Subjects
Springfield College
Springfield College--Trustees
Young Men's Christian Association of North America

People
McBurney, Robert Ross, 1837-1898

Keywords
Mustaches
Portraits

Creator
Fred Stark Co.

Publisher
Springfield College

Date Created
1887-1898

File Name
SC18750

Extent
13 x 16 in.

File Format
Image/jpg

Master File Format
Image/tiff

Date Digital Object Created
2002-04-05

Collection Title
Trustee Records

Item Notes

Virtual Exhibit Identifier
YMCA-HOF
IMLS-YMCA

Rights
Text and images are owned, held, or licensed by Springfield College and are available for personal, non-commercial, and educational use, provided that ownership is properly cited. A credit line is required and should read: Courtesy of Springfield College, Archives and Special Collections. Any commercial use without written permission from Springfield College is strictly prohibited. Other individuals or entities other than, and in addition to, Springfield College may also own copyrights and other proprietary rights. The publishing, exhibiting, or broadcasting party assumes all responsibility for clearing reproduction rights and for any infringement of United States copyright law.
Transcript

To Oliver C. Morse Esq. Sec YMCA Training School Springfield, Mass. Dear Sir, I am in receipt of your kind favor informing me that I have been unanimously elected as a Corporator of your Training School and I desire to acknowledge the honor that has thus been conferred upon me. I regret however that as I reside on this side of the Atlantic and having regard also to the pressures & multiplicity of my present engagements and the number of existing responsibilities, I must deny myself the pleasure of accepting the distinguished position to which I am so generously invited to fill. With repeated acknowledgments of appreciation & very best wishes for a growing blessing upon the School in all its interests, I remain yours truly, George Williams
Title
Sir George Williams Letter, 1890

Description
A letter from YMCA founder, George Williams to Oliver C. Morse, Corresponding Secretary of the YMCA Training School (now Springfield College) dated September 8, 1890. In his letter, Williams acknowledges that while he is very grateful to have been unanimously elected as a Trustee of the School, he will have to decline the offer because of his distance from the school as well as his existing commitments and responsibilities.

Historical Information
The YMCA was founded by Sir George Williams in 1844 as a response to the poor living conditions young men in London, England were exposed to at that time. Williams sought to provide a place where young men could partake in healthy activities for the mind, body and spirit because at the time the options available to young men included taverns and brothels. The YMCA movement quickly spread across England, Scotland and Ireland and in 1851 extended to North America. Williams maintained a lifelong affiliation with the association and in 1894, the fiftieth anniversary of the YMCA's founding, was knighted by Queen Victoria. Sir George died in 1905 and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. He is commemorated with a stained glass window in London's Westminster Abbey.

Springfield College Subjects
International Young Men's Christian Association Training School (Springfield, Mass.)
Springfield College
Springfield College--Trustees
Young Men's Christian Association of North America
Springfield College--Faculty

People
Morse, Oliver C.
Williams, George, Sir, 1821-1905

Companies & Organizations
YMCA

Keywords
Correspondence

Creator
Williams, George, Sir, 1821-1905

Publisher
Springfield College

Date Created
1890-09-08

Language
en-GB

File Name
williams-george-letter-trustees-1890-09-08

File Format
Text/jpg

File Type
Text

Master File Format
Text/tiff

Date Digital Object Created
2011-08-11

Collection Title
Trustee Records

Collection Box Number
Trustee Materials

Collection Folder Number
Miscellaneous correspondence with Corporation Members and Board of Trustees
THE FIRST REPORT
OF THE YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
Improvement of the Spiritual Condition of Young Men engaged in the
DRAPEY AND OTHER TRADES,
BY THE
INTRODUCTION OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES
INTO
HOUSES OF BUSINESS.

Instituted in London, June 6, 1844.

LONDON:
Printed for the Association, by
MAISH & SYMONS, Printers, VAUXHALL.
Object Description

Title
YMCA First Annual Report (1844)

Description
This is the First Annual Report of the YMCA, which was created in 1844. The document begins by sharing the members of the YMCA committee before listing the twelve major rules associated with the committee before transitioning into an introduction that explains the committee's interest in employing a missionary. After the introduction ends, there are seven pages which represent the actual First Report of the Young Men's Christian Association. The first report begins by describing how the association was actually created before shifting the rules and requirements of entering the association. The end of the report talks about the early success of the association, talking about some of the prayers the association has already committed together. The last page of the document is the appendix, which focuses exclusively on the plan of the committee to hire a missionary and some of the requirements of the person who is hired.

Historical Information
Sir George Williams founded the YMCA in 1844 at the age of twenty-two in response to the moral conditions he found upon moving to London, England during the Industrial Revolution. He found the conditions to be incompatible with his evangelical outlook as the only recreational outlets for young men at the time were taverns and brothels. Williams sought to create a place where men could partake in healthy activities for the mind, body and spirit and thus the idea for the Young Men's Christian Association was born. The YMCA movement quickly spread across England, Scotland and Ireland and in 1851 extended to North America. Williams maintained a lifelong affiliation with the association and in 1894, the fiftieth anniversary of the YMCA's founding, was knighted by Queen Victoria. Sir George died in 1905 and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. He is commemorated with a stained glass window in London's Westminster Abbey.

Springfield College Subjects
Young Men's Christian Association of North America (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Young Men's Christian Association of North America/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)
International Young Men's Christian Association (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/International Young Men's Christian Association/field/subjec/mode/exact/conn/and)

People
Williams, George, Sir, 1821-1905 (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Williams%2C George%2C Sir%2C 1821-1905/field/people/mode/exact/conn/and)

Companies & Organizations
YMCA (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/YMCA/field/compan/mode/exact/conn/and)

Geographic Locations

Keywords
documents (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/documents/field/keywor/mode/exact/conn/and)
Christianity (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Christianity/field/keywor/mode/exact/conn/and)
History (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/History/field/keywor/mode/exact/conn/and)

Publisher
Maish and Symons, Printers, Vauxhall (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/Maish and Symons%2C Printers%2C Vauxhall/field/publis/mode/exact/conn/and)

Date Created
1844

Language
en-US

File Name
ymca-first-report-1844-bv-1065-i6-a-1844-73

Extent
17 pages
THE
FIRST REPORT
OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
Improvement of the Spiritual Condition of Young Men engaged in the
DRAPERY AND OTHER TRADES,
BY THE
INTRODUCTION OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES
INTO
Houses of Business.

Instituted in London, June 6, 1844.

LONDON:
Printed for the Association, by
MASH & SYMONS, PRINTERS, VAUXHALL.

1844
FIRST REPORT

OF THE

YOUNG MEN'S

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

DISPERSAL AND OTHER PROGRESS

OF THE

REPRODUCTION OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

HISTORICALLY

AMERICAN

Y.M.C.A.'S

Established in Conneticut, June 4, 1854

No. 30.

Sent from the Association to

New York, St. Louis, Terre Haute, and

1855.
COMMITTEE.

Mr. JAMES SMITH, Chairman.

Mr. EDWARD VALENTINE, Treasurer.

Mr. JOHN C. SYMONS, Secretaries.

Mr. WILLIAM CREESE,

Mr. WILLIAMS.

— BEAUMONT.

— HARVEY.

— GLASSON.

— RENNIE.

— HALL.

— ROGERS.

— COCKETT.

Mr. J. RICHARDS.

— HASLAM.

— JAMESON.

— C. W. SMITH.

— N. SMITH.

— DURRANT.

— SPRECKLEY.

— BRANSCOMB.

Subscriptions and donations will be received by the Secretaries, 72, St. Paul's Church Yard, to whom all communications respecting the Association are requested to be made: or by any member of the Committee.
1. That this society be called "The Young Men's Christian Association."

2. That the object of this Association be the improvement of the spiritual condition of Young Men engaged in the Drapery and other trades, by the introduction of religious services among them.

3. That the affairs of the Association be in the hands of a Committee of management, comprising a President, Vice President, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, and twelve Committee Men, with power to add to their number; seven to form a quorum.

4. That the Committee meet once a month (or oftener if required) for the dispatch of general business.

5. That two social Tea Meetings be held in the year, (the time of such meetings to be left to the discretion of the Committee) at which a report of the Society's proceedings shall be read.

6. That a general meeting be held once a fortnight, (or oftener if required,) for the purpose of hearing reports from members of the progress of the work of God in the various establishments, and for such other purposes as the Committee shall see fit to determine; and that all meetings shall be open for members, and those friends whom they may consider proper persons to bring, and to those who shall receive invitations from the committee.

7. That the Chairman of all general meetings be proposed by the Committee and elected by a majority of the members, and that all meetings shall begin and end with prayer.

RULES, &c.
8. That no person shall be considered eligible to become a member of this Association unless he be a member of a Christian church, or there be sufficient evidence of his being a converted character.

9. That all persons desirous of becoming members shall be proposed at a general meeting, and a deputation be appointed to enquire into their moral character, upon whose report the committee shall decide whether they be eligible or not.

10. That the power of electing members be vested solely in the Committee, who shall not be bound to elect any person because he has been proposed, unless they are perfectly satisfied with the result of their deputation.

11. That each person be expected on becoming a member to pay the sum of sixpence, and to contribute sixpence, quarterly, towards the general fund.

12. That each member be furnished with a card, signed by the Secretaries in proof of membership.
A Tea Meeting of the members and friends of the Young Men’s Christian Association, was held at Radley’s Hotel, Bridge Street, Blackfriars, on Friday, Nov. 8, 1844, at half-past Seven o’Clock. About two hundred persons sat down to tea, the greater part of whom were young men employed in the Drapery trade.

Shortly after Eight o’Clock, the tables being cleared, the business of the meeting commenced by singing the two following verses, which were given out by the chairman, Mr. W. D. Owen, of Great Coram Street.

“Tis religion that can give,
Sweetest pleasure while we live,
Tis religion must supply
Solid comfort when we die,
After death its joys shall be
Lasting as Eternity;
Be the living God my friend,
Then my joys shall never end.”

Mr. Branch then engaged in prayer, after which the Chairman rose, and said, that letters had been received from the Hon. and Rev. H. M. Villiers, Revs. John Cumming, James Sherman, Hugh Hughes, John Smith, and Mr. Josiah Conder, expressive of their regret at not being able to attend, and of their cordial approbation of the Society’s proceedings; he then called upon the Secretary to read the Report, which will be found annexed. Mr. Owen then addressed the meeting in a very interesting speech, and concluded by recommending the Committee to take into consideration the employing a missionary, which he doubted not would be rendered highly beneficial.

The first resolution, proposed by Mr. Branch, and seconded by the Rev. William Arthur, was as follows—

“That this meeting regards with deep sympathy the neglected spiritual condition of the young men employed in the Drapery and other establishments of the metropolis, and views with lively interest the efforts which are being made by this association, towards the improvement of that condition.”
The Second Resolution—

"That this meeting renders thanks to Almighty God for the encouraging and abundant success with which the ‘Young Men's Christian Association’ has been favoured, and looks forward with joyful anticipation to the ultimate benefits which it, in connexion with other kindred societies, is calculated to impart."

was proposed by the Rev. W. Fraser, and seconded by the Rev. R. W. Dibdin.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. C. W. Smith, seconded by Mr. J. Smith, to "Mr. W. D. Owen, for his kindness in presiding on this occasion, and for his able conduct in the chair; and to those ministers and gentlemen who have kindly favoured us with their presence and support."

The doxology was then sung, and the benediction pronounced by Mr. Branch, after which the meeting separated.

The whole of the speeches were of a deeply spiritual character, and it is hoped that the delightful and hallowed spirit which pervaded that meeting, will constantly pervade all the operations of the Association; and that its benefits will be manifold and lasting.
FIRST REPORT
OF THE
Young Men's Christian Association,
Presented Nov. 6th, 1844.

In presenting their first Report, the Committee of the
"Young Men's Christian Association," are anxious to lay
before this meeting as full, and at the same time as concise
an account as possible, of its establishment, objects, and
success.

The design of forming such an Association originated
with our excellent friend who now occupies the chair (a).
It was first mentioned in conversation to a member of the
Committee, who, acting upon the suggestion, spoke of it
to some of the pious young men with whom he was ac-
quainted. A meeting was the result of these conver-
sations: it was held at 72, St. Paul's Churchyard, on June
6th, 1844. Those who composed that meeting formed
themselves into a Committee; rules were adopted, officers
elected, and the Society dates its institution from that
meeting.

The object contemplated in the formation of this Asso-
ciation was "the introduction of religious services into
the houses of business in the metropolis." Services had
been established in the houses to which the Committee
belonged, and the most beneficial results had followed.

(a) Mr. W. D. Owen, of Great Coram Street, who was also the founder
of the Drapers' Institution, (a benefit society), and is Honorary Treasurer to
the Metropolitan Drapers' Association.

* This is an error. The
name of the founder
refusing to be named
Shipton.
Encouraged by the past faithfulness and future promises of God, they determined to use their feeble efforts towards the more general adoption of such services.

To carry out their design, the Committee resolved to send printed circulars, briefly explaining the nature and objects of the Association to all those Christian young men whose names could be obtained, connected with the establishments of the metropolis:—to engage a room, in which meetings should be held for the purpose of giving more information respecting the Association than the circular contained, and to provoke one another to love and to good works; to which meetings young men favourably disposed towards the Association should be invited.

These meetings soon became numerously attended, and were rendered of a very interesting and profitable character, by the reports of the members from the various houses. It became necessary, therefore, to look for, and engage, a larger room, in which, after very considerable difficulty, the Committee succeeded, and the fortnightly meetings of members are now held at this hotel. At our last meeting we had not less than seventy present.

It was deemed necessary by the Committee, that cards of membership should be prepared, and that persons only who gave evidence of a change of heart and life should be admitted as members.

Rules were therefore framed, requiring that each candidate for membership should be proposed to the Committee, who were to investigate his character, and fitness for membership, in any way which to them should appear best; and that they should not be bound to elect any person because he had been proposed, unless they were perfectly satisfied with the result of their investigation.

Thus the greatest possible caution has been exercised by the Committee in their selection of members. They consider this of paramount importance, and they would rather see a few names as members,—and those the names of men
willing to be “instant in season, and out of season, in the
work of the Lord,”—than behold a long and numerous list
of those who are without the power, while they have the
form, of godliness, and who would be like so many dead
weights to retard the progress of the Association.

We want as members those—and those only—who, while
they bear the name of Christ, have also his mind and
spirit. Alexander the Great, when he heard that there
was a man in his army who bore his name,—but who was
a coward,—called upon him either to disown the name, or
to show himself worthy of it by deeds of valour: “For,”
said the hero, “an Alexander never flies.” The Com-
mitee hope it will not be found that they have any in
their ranks who bear his name, but who are cowards in his
cause. If there should be such a man a member of this
Association, we call upon him either to prove himself
worthy his King and Master, or to disown the name of
Christ!

As funds would be needed for carrying out the objects
of the Association, a rule was adopted requiring each
member to subscribe sixpence quarterly towards the ge-
neral fund. And here the Committee beg leave to remark,
that though this will be insufficient to defray the current
expenses, yet it has been considered advisable to place so
low a sum as a quarterly subscription in order that the
world may not regard this as a mere money-getting society,
and they therefore prefer relying on the spontaneous
liberality of the members and friends, rather than place a
larger sum as a quarterly subscription.

The services which “The Young Men’s Christian Asso-
ciation” is established to promote, are chiefly prayer meet-
ings, and wherever it is practicable, bible classes. The
Committee recommend that pious young men, residing in
the different houses, should establish them in their bed or
other rooms, which can be obtained for that purpose; and
that the unconverted among them should be invited to
attend these services. Wherever it is practicable, they recommend regular family worship; and they are anxious that employers should be made acquainted with this important movement, in order that they may give countenance and encouragement to the efforts of their young men in this great and good cause.

Until recently, the young men engaged in the pursuits of business were totally neglected! They were treated as though devoid of mind; as though formed only to labour and sleep, and to sleep and labour; so that they could only go from their beds to the counter, and from the counter to their beds, without a moment for mental or spiritual culture, and without disposition, or even strength, for the performance of those devotional exercises which Christianity enjoins! (a) But, happily for us, a brighter day has dawned. The 20,000 young men engaged in the drapery, and the 30,000 employed in the various other trades of the metropolis, are being regarded as an important portion of society— are looked upon as moral agents—as immortal beings! Time for mental and spiritual improvement is being given them, and the meeting of this evening furnishes an answer, and a powerful answer,—if, indeed, any answer were needed,—to the objection which has been so frequently urged, that if time were given to young men, they would use it improperly. And it is also an evidence that they are not insensible to the obligation under which they are laid to devote the time thus placed at their disposal to the service of God, and the advancement of Christ’s kingdom.

The success with which the “Young Men’s Christian Association” has been crowned, is most encouraging. In one large house, besides a morning service, conducted by a minister, and at which all must be present, there is a

(a) See the “Prize Essay on theLate Hour System,” with an introductory address by Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel, and also the Reports of the “Metropolitan Drapers’ Association,” published by Nesbit and Co, Berners-street.
prayer meeting on one, and a bible class on another night of the week, both of which are well attended. The prayer meeting was set on foot by three or four pious young men, and has been established about two years—the bible class about a year and a half.

Delightful results have followed, and it is hoped that not less than 16 persons have, through the instrumentality of these services, been soundly converted to God. There is a missionary association connected with the house, in which about fifty pounds are raised.

Another house into which a prayer meeting has been introduced on one evening a week, the benefits have been most apparent, and God's blessing is abundantly manifested. One person has joined the Church, and another is earnestly seeking salvation!

In another house where forty persons are employed, a member writes:—"We rejoice to say we have an altar raised to God within our walls. At first, two of us met once a week, for the purpose, first, that we might experience a deeper work of holiness in our own souls, and secondly, that we might plead with the Lord for the salvation of our fellow-assistants. We met with a good deal of ridicule and opposition, but this did not daunt us." Instead of two, the number who now attend the meeting in this house is eleven. "One, I am happy to say, has stepped into the liberty of the children of God, and is now a member of the Rev. J. Sherman's church. Another is earnestly seeking salvation. Our prospects are bright, the Spirit of God is striving with some, and we confidently expect that, in answer to our prayers, God will bless us."

In another house, a friend writes:—"We have a prayer meeting once a week, to which we invite young men who are not pious; several regularly attend, and appear to feel interested in the meeting. We have not seen any decided fruit resulting from our meeting as to conversion;
but that we shall do so eventually I doubt not. Indeed, I am certain we shall, if we go on exercising faith in God’s promises, and keeping in view his glory.”

From one of the largest houses in the metropolis, the Committee have received the most cheering reports. “Some few weeks since,” our friends write, “we hired a room near our house, where some half dozen of us met to bow our knees to the ‘God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ God has never failed to meet with and bless us. We pray for each other, that we may be strengthened by the ‘Spirit’s might,’ and that we may shine as lights in the world. We are become more united to each other, and we love the Saviour more fervently. Oh what happy hours are those, when, having boldness through the blood of Christ, we enter into the holy places, and feel that ‘A soul in converse with her God, is heaven.’ Our numbers are increasing, and two have joined themselves to the people of God, and are seeking ‘redemption through the blood of Christ;’ several others are becoming enquirers. We have commenced raising a missionary fund, that we may not merely say ‘Fly abroad, thou mighty gospel,’ but that we may do something to send the Word of Life to the poor perishing heathen. Our room for prayer in the house will soon be finished, and our prospects are bright and cheering.”

From another house our friends report:—“A morning prayer meeting was, with the consent of our employer, first established about four months ago. The attendance, at first, was very encouraging, but as soon as the mornings became cold, it was only with great perseverance and persuasion that three or four were induced to attend. It was therefore deemed advisable to change the time from the morning to the evening, which plan was adopted on Monday last. Better attendance has been the result, and under the Divine blessing, we trust that many souls may be benefited and brought to God.”
Many other reports of the same nature might be given, but it will suffice if we add one other. "A prayer meeting," writes a member from another house, "was first established here by a young man, who having been awakened and brought to God, became anxious for the salvation of his fellow-men. He determined on setting apart one night in the week for public prayer and reading the Scriptures. In this he encountered great opposition from the unconverted members of the house; nevertheless he persevered, and God blessed his efforts abundantly; three persons were converted to God, one of whom became a local preacher, and the other two continue constant members of the Church of Christ. Many others have enquired their way to Zion, but for want of resolution, have turned back. An opportunity presented itself to propose family worship, which was readily assented to, and has now been continued for some time."

The Committee cannot but feel greatly encouraged by such abundant success, and they believe this is but the pledge of future and extensive usefulness.

There are at present connected with the Association, about seventy enrolled members; religious services are established in fourteen houses, into ten of which they were introduced through the instrumentality of this Association. There are also two districts in which young men from different houses meet together for united prayer. The Committee would conclude their Report by calling upon each individual member of this meeting to assist them in their important work. They want your active and zealous co-operation—your counsel—but above all, your prayers! They confidently expect the fulfilment of the promise contained in their motto, and are continually waiting its accomplishment. "He who goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall surely return with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."
APPENDIX.

At a Special Committee Meeting, held Nov. 14, and by adjournment on Nov. 18, 1844, for the purpose of considering the suggestion of Mr. Owen, as to the propriety of employing a missionary (a).

It was unanimously resolved—

1. That this Association employ a missionary.

2. That the missionary employed by the Association shall be paid by, and be subject to the control of, this Committee.

3. That a missionary fund be raised, and that annual or quarterly subscriptions and donations be solicited from the members and friends for that purpose.

4. That all subscriptions to this fund be paid in advance.

This is considered necessary, in order that the Committee may be under as little pecuniary responsibility as possible.

The duties of the missionary will be to act as assistant secretary; to attend all general meetings of the Association; to assist in conducting services in houses where they want help, &c.; to establish and render as efficient as possible, district associations; to form, by communicating with pious young men in the large towns and cities of the kingdom, branch associations, (it may sometimes be necessary that he should visit these towns and cities); to visit young men in illness, and to make himself generally useful among the class to which his efforts will be directed, by pointing them to the “Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.”

It is respectfully submitted that not less than £130 per annum will be requisite to pay the salary, and defray the necessary expenses of the missionary. The Committee therefore appeal to their members and friends, to assist them in so good a cause.

Subscriptions and Donations towards the Missionary Fund will be received by the Secretaries, 72, St. Paul's Church Yard.

(a) Page 7.