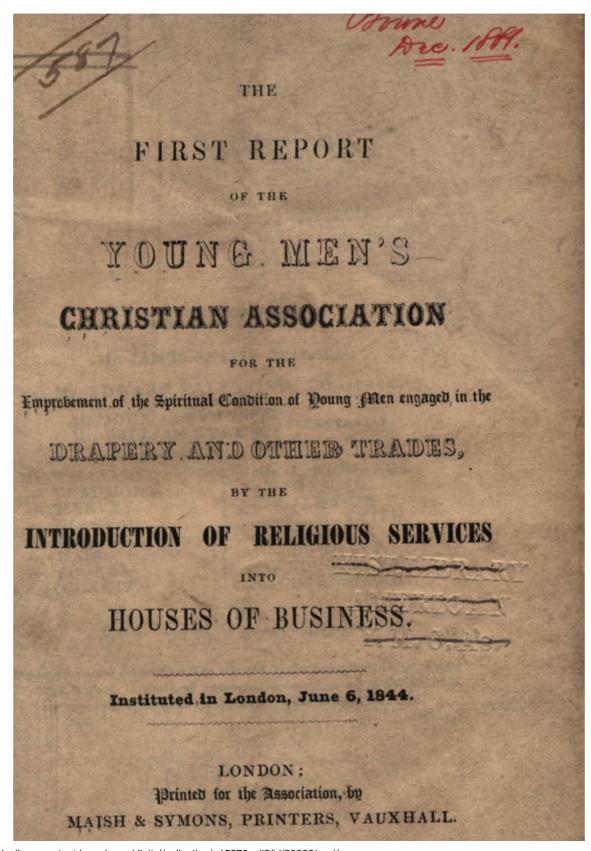
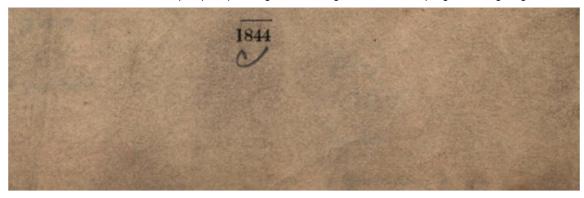
YMCA First Annual Report (1844)

Page 1

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[YMCA, England. (Jun. 06, 1844). YMCA First Annual Report. YMCA Great Britain, Springfield College. Source: https://springfieldcollege.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15370coll2/id/23402/rec/1]





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

<u>London (England) (/digital/collection/p15370coll2/search/searchterm/London (England)/field/geogra/mode/exact/conn/and)</u>

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FIRST REPORT

OF TH

ROANG MEN'S

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

Emprebement of the Spiritual Condition of Young Men engaged in the

DRAPERY AND OTHER TRADES,

INTRODUCTION OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

HOUSES OF BUSINESS.

Instituted in London, June 6, 1844.

LONDON;

Quinted for the Association, by

MAISH & SYMONS, PRINTERS, VAUXHALL.

1844

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CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

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COMMUNICATION.

Mr. JAMES SMITH, CHAIRMAN,

Mr. EDWARD VALENTINE, TREASURER.

Mr. JOHN C. SYMONS, SECRETARIES. | . Mr. J. RICHARDS.

Mr. WILLIAMS. - BEAUMONT. - HARVEY.

- GLASSON. - RENNIE. - HALL

- ROGERS. - COCKETT. - C. W. SMITH.

- HASLAM.

- JAMESON.

- DURRANT. - SPRECKLEY. - BRANSCOME

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,

LIBRARY



Mr. JAMES SMITH, CHARMAN, dr. EDWARD VALENTINE, TRRASERE Mr. JOHN C. SYMONS, Mr. WILLIAM CHEESE, SEGRETARIES

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- JAMESON.

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- N. SMITH.

- DURRANT.

- SPERCKLEY.

- DRANGOME

HARVEY, CLASSON, RENNIE, HALL, ROGERS, COCKETT.

Capril Yest, to school oil communication, majorting the confester, me requested to be made; or by ady toucher of the Committee.

Hede redered and EULES, &c. to become of

I. 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 quoram.

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

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 frequired, 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.

 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.

- 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.

C. That a court of marries the death man a fortained.

INTRODUCTION.

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 Seren 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 jepy shall sieve only.

Mr. Branch then rengaed in proyer, after which the Chairman rose, and sald, that letters had been received from the Ham and Rev. H. M. Willers, Bees, John Comming, Josiah Conder, supressive of their regret at not being able to attent, and of their receival approximation of the Society. Report, which will be found samesed. Mr. Owen then addressed the meeting in a very interesting speech, and concluded by recommending the Committee to take Into 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 coedition of the young mea 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 abandant success with which the 'Young Mee's Christian Association' has been favoured, and looks forward with joyfal 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. Brunch, 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 censtantly pervade all the operations of the Association; and that its benefits will be manifold and lasting

Report, which will be found annexed. Mr. Owen then addressed the meeting in a very interesting speech, and

bos orular FIRST REPORT believe base

OF THE

Young Men's Christian Association,

Presented Nov. 8th., 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 acquainted. A meeting was the result of these conversations: it was held at 72. St. Paul's Churchvard, 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 Association 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 Ceram Street, who was also the founder of the Drapers' Institution, (a leasefit seciety), and is Honorary Treasurer to the Metropolitum Drapers' Association

* This is an of

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 get as ortant to progress of the Association. We want as member than-small dutes only-subsymbol spirit. Advanced to the Green's spirit. Advanced to the Green's spirit was a man in his may who bere his man,—but who was a normal,—called upon him either to disown the name, or to show himself worthy of it by deeded of valour: "Fer," said the here, "an Alexander never fites." The Committee hope is will not be found that they have any in their rasks who bear his man, but who are cowards in his cause. If there should be such a man a member of this Association, we call upon this either to prove himself association, we call upon this either to prove himself (Griff).

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 general fund. And here the Committee begives to remark, that though this will be insufficient to defray the current expense, yet it has been considered advable to place so low a sum as a quarterly subscription in order that the value of the contract of th

The services which "The Young Men's Christian Ascciation" is established to promote, are chiefly prayer meetings, 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 eleep, 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 sniritual 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.

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 the Late Hour System," with an introductory address by Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel, and also the Reports of the "Metropolitan Drayers" Association, "published by Neshit and Ce, 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

From another house our freeds report :—"A morning prayer meeting was, with the consent of our employer, finit established about four mouths ago. The attendance, at first, was very encounging, but as soon as the mornings became cold, it was only with great perspersance and persuasion that there or frow verse instead to a stead, it was therefore deemed advisable to change the time from the morning on the evening, which plan was adopted on under the Divine blessing, we treat that many souls may be benefited and brought to Gold."

will soon be finished, and our prospects are bright and

cheering."

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-vour 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."

ellen other reprivated WHIRADIES wight be given,

- 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).
 - allt was unanimously resolved law wift at their and

discouler, "A prover meet-

- 1. That this Association employ a missionary. 2 That the missionary employed by the Association shall be paid by, and be subject to the controll of, this
- 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.
- 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 e necessary expenses of the missionary. The Committee therefore appeal to their members and friends, to assist them in so good a cause.

Manuitros era Ben ota (e) Pege 7.

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

