

Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations,
OF THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES,

New York, Cor. 4th Avenue and 23d Street.

11 May 1876

Principal J. W. Dawson Esq.

Honored & dear Sir,

You will notice by
the enclosed circular that among
the topics to be discussed at our
approaching Convention in
Toronto is one relating to "the use
of the Bible in our Associations."
The second division of the topic calls
attention to the use of the Bible "as a
means of instruction." It is in
the discussion of this portion of
the subject that our Committee
have desired me to ask you to
make the opening address.

We count this the most important subject before us. Has by you in the Conventions emphasis has been laid upon its discussion & as one result we find that, while few years ago one in every eight of the Associations in the United States maintained Bible Classes, now one in every three or four rejoice in such a class.

We earnestly hope it will be possible for you to be with us at our meeting & out of the long & ripe experience you have had in the work to help the hundreds of Christian young men from all parts of the Continent to make a better use of the Bible.

With cordial regard from every member of our Committee, believe me with very sincere respect

Yours fraternally
Richard L. Moore

P.S. The journey & visit at Toronto will of course be free of expense to you.

STATEMENT.

At the International Convention in Richmond (May 26-29), the Associations and States represented gave reports of unprecedented progress. Brethren from the South and the West, and from among the Germans, testified to the great blessing which had followed the visitations conducted among them the past year, under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Convention. They urged so powerfully the continuance of this important work, that the 330 Delegates at Richmond, from 30 States and Provinces, deemed it an absolute necessity to instruct the Committee to send out the present year the experienced visitors who are ready to go, into the following important fields:

1. IN THE SOUTH.—T. K. Cree and G. A. Hall, visitors. These gentlemen last winter visited 30 leading cities, from Virginia to Texas, travelling over 6,000 miles. To the churches along their route as many as 800 converts were added, and 50 delegates from 28 places came to Richmond to learn about the Association work, and to ask for the continued labors of these brethren.

2. AT THE WEST.—Robert Weidensall, visitor, who last year organized the efficient State Committee of Minnesota, visiting extensively and usefully in that State and in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. He is urgently asked for to continue this work in the States of the North-West.

3. AMONG THE GERMANS.—F. Von Schluembach last Spring visited 20 of our large cities from New Haven to St. Louis, labored among Christian Germans, organizing them for work in behalf of young men. He was greatly blessed in his labors, and is ready to continue and extend them the coming year.

4. AMONG RAILROAD MEN.—The Association in Cleveland, Ohio, has offered to the Committee the services of Messrs. Lang Sheaff and G. W. Cobb—brethren experienced in Christian work among Railroad men—for occasional visitation of Railroad centres, where this work can be organized. The Committee will be called upon to defray simply the travelling expenses of these gentlemen.

5. AMONG COLORED YOUNG MEN AT THE SOUTH.—Experienced Southern delegates urged the importance of labor among the colored young men, and

expressed an earnest desire that a competent visitor might be sent to promote Christian work among and for them. The Committee earnestly desire to comply with this request.

6. The work of correspondence, distribution of documents, collection of Association news and statistics at the Central Office, R. C. Morse, Secretary, and Erskine Uhl, Assistant Secretary. This work has been increased beyond all expectation by these visitations and the many inquiries following them from beginners in the Association field.

The columns of many newspapers, both secular and religious, are open as never before for items of Association intelligence. If the force in the office permitted, more liberal contributions to the press could be made, and substantial benefits would be reaped from the better appreciation of our work by the public.

7. Last year, Messrs. H. Thane Miller, Russell Sturgis, Jr., H. K. Porter, R. K. Remington, L. W. Munhall, T. K. Cree, H. M. Moore, M. B. Critchett, G. A. Hall, and S. A. Taggart, represented the Committee at various State and Provincial Conventions, greatly to the benefit of the cause. Like representation by these and other active brethren, in different parts of the country, is urgently called for at the Conventions of this year.

8. For the work, thus briefly sketched, \$20,000 is needed. More than half this sum is required for salaries, and the balance for traveling expenses, office-work, postage, circulars, stationery, publications of the Committee, &c., &c. The Convention subscribed \$9,056 toward the amount named, and instructed the Committee to secure the balance from Associations not represented at Richmond, and from other friends of the cause.

CEPHAS BRAINERD, New York City, *Chairman.*

JAMES STOKES, JR., New York City.
TIMOTHY G. SELLEW, JR., "
ROBERT R. MCBURNEY, "
BENJAMIN C. WETMORE, "
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GEORGE E. DAVIS, Burlington, Vt.
RUSSELL STURGIS, JR., Boston, Mass.

R. K. REMINGTON, Fall River, Mass.
JAMES MCCORMICK, JR., Harrisburg, Pa.
H. K. PORTER, Pittsburg, Pa.
H. THANE MILLER, Cincinnati, Ohio.
L. W. MUNHALL, Indianapolis, Ind.
S. A. KEAN, Chicago, Ill.
THOMAS COCHRAN, JR., St. Paul, Minn.
S. W. T. HOPPER, Baltimore, Md.
F. H. SMITH, Washington, D. C.
W. P. MUNFORD, Richmond, Va.
JOSEPH HARDIE, Selma, Ala.

RICHARD C. MORSE, *General Secretary,*

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