



**The Aberdeen
Young Men's
Christian Association:**

ITS ORIGIN AND HISTORY.

A Jubilee Retrospect.

BY

ALEXANDER GAMMIE

(“**ESTABLISHED**”).



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The Y.M.C.A. Buildings.

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Introductory Note.

THESE notes on the origin and history of the Aberdeen Young Men's Christian Association appeared originally in the columns of the *Evening Express*, and they are now re-printed by request. The occasion which called them forth was the public celebration of the Jubilee of the Association on 7th September, 1908, an event which was also signalled by the opening of the first British Conference of Young Men's Christians Associations held in the city of Aberdeen.

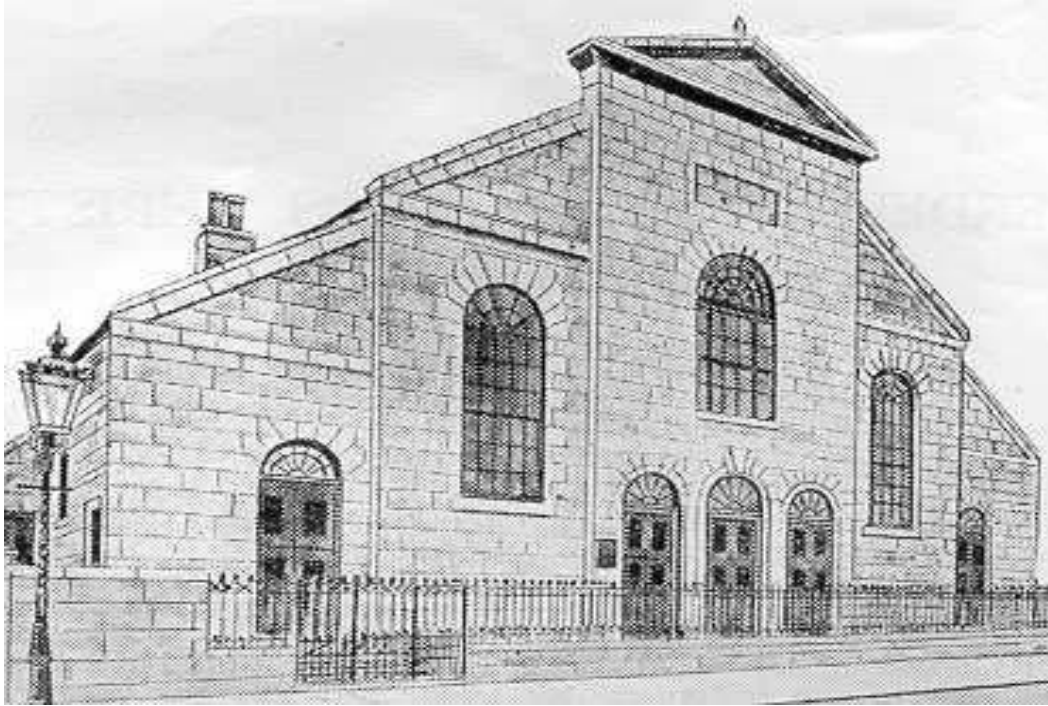
THE ABERDEEN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION:

ITS ORIGIN AND HISTORY.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Aberdeen has now attained its jubilee, and after half a century of public prominence the once mystic letters – YMCA – need no interpretation. During the course of its existence, the Association has gathered around it a history of its own; yet it is a history with a wider significance. Owing to its inter-denominational aspect, the Young Men's Christian Association has been the centre of many of the religious movements in the city and district within the last fifty years, and the story of its work has therefore, in some degree, a bearing on the religious life of Aberdeen in general. In view of the jubilee celebrations, there may, therefore, be a certain public interest in seeking to recall some of the main features of its history.

On Tuesday evening, 6th July, 1858, a small company of young men met in the Session House of Bon-Accord Free Church (then in Union Terrace, on the site of the present School Board Offices) "to endeavour to form a Young Men's Christian Association in this town." Those present were:- Messrs. Joseph Wood, Charles Smith, Alexander Milne, Robert Milne, William Martin, Francis Shepherd, James Souttar, William B. Reid, John Horne, Patrick Singer, David Smith, James Watt, William Fettess, William R. Walker, John G. McKendrick, and Robert M. Moir. Of the survivors of that original company, three are well known in Aberdeen to day:- Mr. Alexander Milne, late bookseller; Mr

James Souttar, architect; and Professor McKendrick, formerly of Glasgow University, and now residing at Stonehaven. Mr. Alexander Brand, accountant, attended the meeting by request, for the purpose of presiding, which he evidently did with acceptance and success. After discussion, it was unanimously and heartily agreed to form an association, and a committee was appointed to prepare rules and regulations. At a meeting some weeks later, the first office-bearers were appointed as follows, viz.- Chairman, Mr. Alexander Brand; secretaries, Mr. Alexander Milne and Mr. R. M. Moir; treasurer, Mr. Joseph Wood; with a provisional committee of eight members. The following honorary office-bearers were subsequently chosen, viz.- Hon. President, the Earl of Kintore; hon. vice-presidents, Lord Hadd, Mr. Alexander Thomson of Banchory, Mr. John Gordon of Parkhill, Mr. George Thomson, jun. Of Pitmedden, Rev. A. Dyce Davidson, D.D., Rev. R. J. Brown, D.D., Rev. David Brown, D.D., Rev. Alexander Anderson, Rev. James Fraser, Mr. William Henderson of Devanha, Mr. Neil Smith, jun., Mr. William Leslie, Mr. R.S.F. Spottiswood, Mr. William McCombie, and Bishop Suther. Up till this time the meetings had been held in the Session House of Bon-Accord Church, where the movement originated, but inquiries were made regarding the use of the "Circular Room" of the Music Hall Buildings, and a satisfactory arrangement having

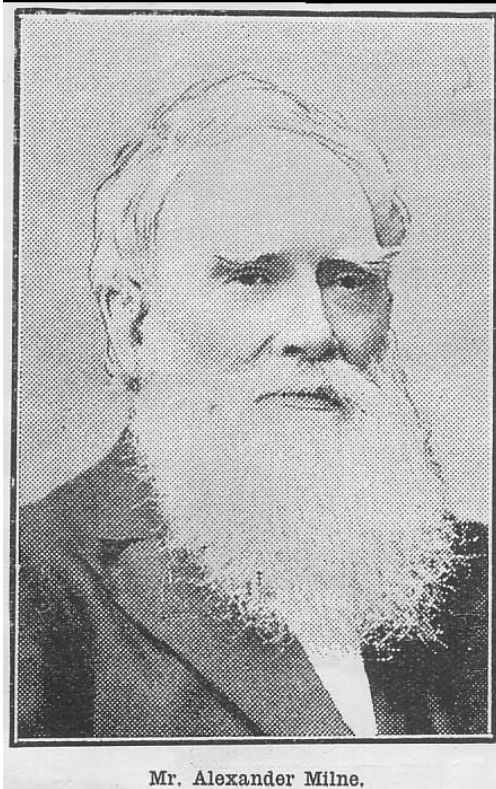


Old Bon-Accord Church

been made, the Association removed thither on 14th September, 1858.

Several departments of work were soon instituted, the members, who were steadily increasing in number, showing considerable energy and enterprise in their arrangements. A devotional meeting was held every Tuesday evening from the origin of the Association, and a Bible Class on Sunday mornings was carried on under the charge of Rev. Alexander Beverley and Rev. James Brebner (teachers in the Grammar School). Mr. Brebner was afterwards for many years Superintendent of Education in the Orange Free State, South Africa, and he received the degree of LL.D. from Aberdeen University. A Literary Class was instituted, and in addition to the efforts of the members themselves, lectures were given by Rev. George Campbell, Rev. Dr Edersheim, Rev. Alexander Anderson, and Baillie Urquhart. The other features of work were those carried on by the Temperance Committee, Lodging

House Committee, Missionary Committee and Sabbath Committee. The origin of the Sabbath Committee casts an interesting light on the state of Sabbath observance fifty years ago. At a meeting of the Association held on 1st June, 1859, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz. – “That this Association, recognising the Sabbath as a divinely-appointed institution, and of perpetual and solemn obligation, resolve to memorialise the local Presbyteries regarding the desecration on Sabbath evenings on the outskirts of the city, and humbly to submit to those reverend bodies the propriety of their calling the special attention of their people to this God-dishonouring sin. The Association hereby remit to the committee to prepare and forward these memorials without delay, and also, if possible, to secure the delivery of sermons during summer on this subject in the open air, and in the districts which are most frequented.” In the first annual report of the Association, the desecration specially



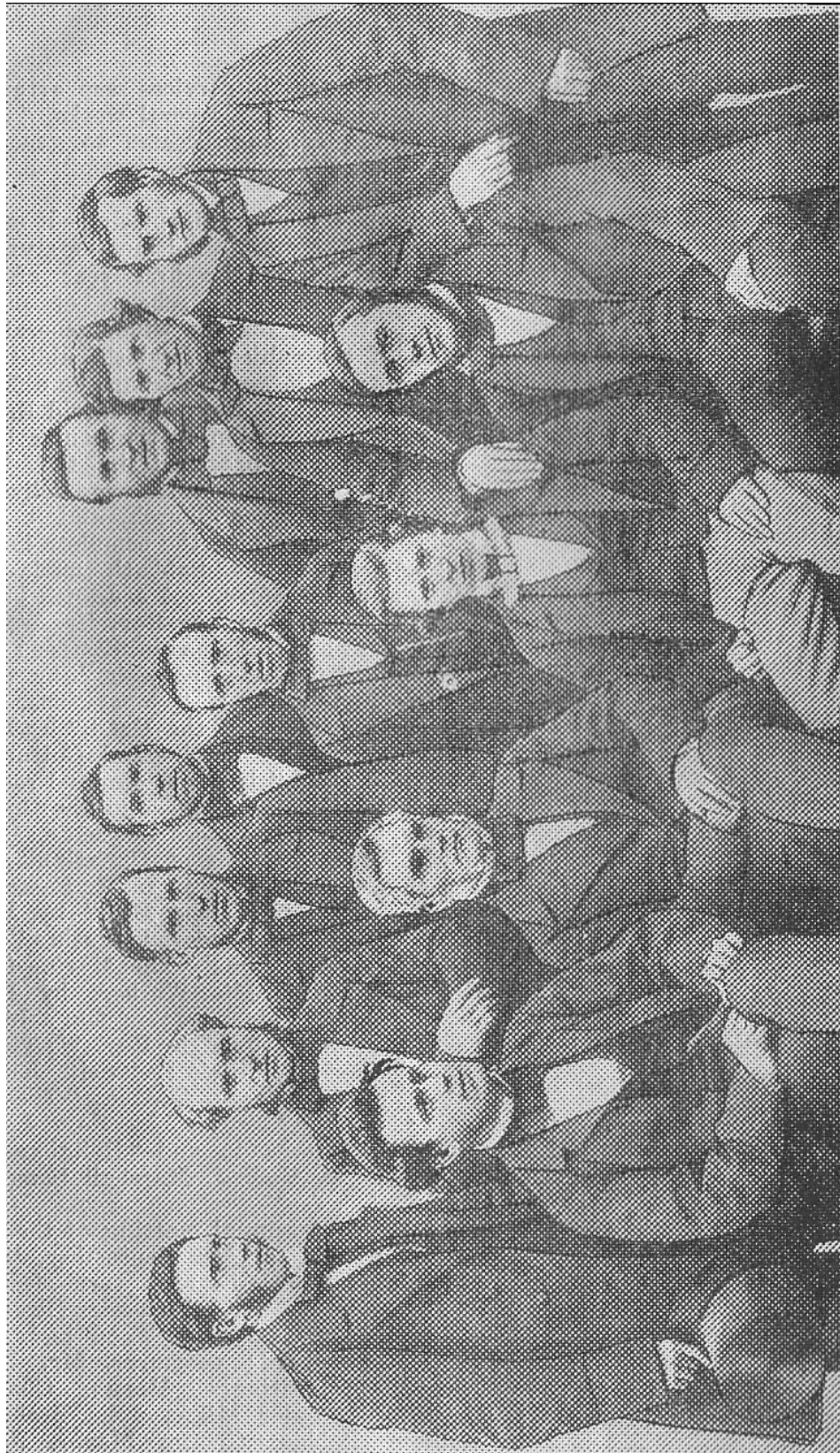
Mr. Alexander Milne.

complained of is described as "Sabbath Walking," and the hope is expressed that by means of the open-air services many had been restrained from seeking this "sinful pleasure on the Lord's Day." The memorial was laid before and favourably received by the Presbyteries of the Free and U.P. Churches. With the countenance of these courts, and also of ministers of other denominations, a series of open-air services was arranged and carried on for several weeks, "until out-door preaching became so general" that the work of the committee was superseded.

Perhaps the most enterprising – it might be called the most ambitious – feature of the work during the first year of the Association was its scheme of public lectures which, for the wide, general interest of the subjects, and the ability of the lecturers, it would perhaps be difficult to eclipse to-day. Rev. Dr. David Brown gave an introduction to the course by a special sermon preached in the Free West Church. The lectures were delivered in

Gilcomston Free Church, and it may be instructive to give the complete list as follows, viz.-"The Sabbath made for Man, and, therefore, not a Jewish but a General Institution," by Rev. Dr. Walter Macgivray; "Religion in Sweden: Its Present State and Prospects," by Rev Professor Lumsden; "Apparitions and the Reappearance of the Dead," by Rev. Robert Forbes; "Intellectual Culture a Religious Duty," by Rev. James Fraser; "Our Relations to China and the Opium Traffic," by Rev. James Johnstone, Glasgow; "The Relation of Christianity to the Desires," by Rev. A. L. R. Foote, of Brechin; "Optics: the Eye," by Rev. James Smith; "Frederick Pathes," by Rev Dr Edersheim; "The Marine Garden: God and His Works," by Rev. James Yuill, Peterhead; "Our Light Periodical Literature," by Rev. W. Thomson, Lumsden Village; "Self Knowledge," by Rev. George S. Mee; "The Use and Abuse of Leisure," by Rev James Mitchell, Peterhead; and "Religion and Business," by Rev. J. Marshall Lang, of Fyvie.

At the first annual meeting of the Association, held on 30th September, 1859, the following office-beareres were elected, viz.- Chairman, Mr. Alexander Brand; secretaries, Mr. Joseph Wood and Mr. Francis Shepherd; treasurer, Mr. John Horne; committee – Messrs. Charles Smith, Alexander Milne, John Brebner, William Robbie, George Mavor, John Wagrel, Patrick Singer and John Ironside. Happily a photographic group of these office-bearers has been preserved and it is now of considerable historical interest. In addition to Mr Milne, who has been already referred to as one of the original members, there are two survivors of the group still in Aberdeen – Mr. William Robbie, the well-known author of "Aberdeen – Its Traditions and History," and other works, now an



1930
Aberdeen Y.M.C.A. Committee, 1859.
 7/6 Pat. Singer.

Alex. Milne.	G. W. Mavor.	Chas. Smith.	John Wagrel.	Wm. Robbie.
	Joseph Wood.	John Brebner.	John Ironside.	John Horne.
		Alex. Brand.	Francis Shepherd.	

elder in Bon-Accord U.F. Church; and Mr. John Ironside, house agent, now an elder in the South U.F. Church.



Mr. William Robbie.

In the early years of its existence the Association had the credit of bringing to Aberdeen many of the most noted preachers and lecturers of the day. Some of them were famous then, and others who were obscure then are known over all the world to-day. To the names already given, the following may be added of preachers and lecturers in the immediately succeeding years, viz.- Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool; Rev. Marcus Dods, of Glasgow (now Principal of New College, Edinburgh); Rev. William Landels, London; Rev. Hugh Macmillan, Glasgow; Rev. Dr Andrew Thomson, Edinburgh; Rev. A. H. Charteris, Glasgow (afterwards Professor in Edinburgh); Rev. Dr. A. K. H. Boyd, St Andrews; Rev Arthur Mursell, London; Rev. Edwin. Paxton Hood, Brighton; Rev. Dr. Logan Aikman, Glasgow (afterwards of Edinburgh, the well-known poet-

preacher of the United Free Church). But the most outstanding name of all is that of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, who visited Aberdeen under the auspices of the Association in 1861. The visit of the great preacher of the Metropolitan Tabernacle made a red-letter day in the religious annals of the city. Mr Spurgeon came to Aberdeen as the guest of Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Henderson of Devanha, on Tuesday, 12th March, 1861, and preached in the Music Hall both in the afternoon and evening to immense audiences gathered not from the city alone, but from nearly every district in the north. On the following morning he breakfasted with the members of the Y.M.C.A. and about a score of local ministers – the company numbering in all about 150. Mr Spurgeon's address on the occasion was in his most racy style, and it was subsequently published along with his two sermons, and very widely circulated, a reprint being issued in 1892.

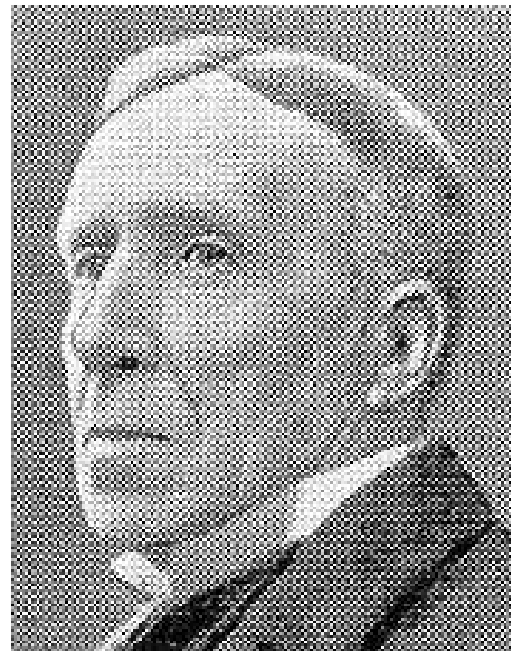
In 1873 the Association removed from the Round Room of the Music Hall Buildings to premises rented at 183a Union Street. It was recognised that the work demanded the use of a suite of rooms solely set apart for the convenience of the Association, and the committee felt justified in taking this forward step. A still greater advance was, however, soon to be made. In 1874, Messrs. Moody and Sankey paid their first visit to Aberdeen, and the city was stirred by a mighty revival. Among all classes of the community there was a great awakening, and the Y.M.C.A. reaped a large accession to its membership, and received a new impetus in its work. It also reaped other benefits. Mr. Moody directed attention to the importance of the Y.M.C.A., and pleaded for its receiving a far greater measure of public support. His appeal was fruitful in a marked degree. A movement was

started for the purchase of a suitable building in a prominent position, with ample accommodation for the headquarters of the Association.

Several influential citizens, including Dr. Pirrie, the eminent Professor of Surgery, and Mr. Henderson of Devanha, took up the matter, and the building, No. 198 Union Street, which the Association still occupies, was acquired and opened for use. The large hall, subsequently built at the rear to plans prepared by Mr. (afterwards Lord Provost) James Matthews, was opened on 12th October, 1876. Professor Pirrie, who had taken a leading share in the negotiations all through, became convener of the trustees for the property, those associated with him being Mr. Francis Edmond of Kingswells, Mr. Gray C. Fraser, advocate; Mr. James Garden, advocate; Mr. William Henderson of Devanha; Mr. William Leslie of Nethermuir; Mr. Robert Lumsden, banker; Mr. Alexander Nico, shipowner; Mr. James B. McCombie, advocate; Rev. A. Irvine Robertson, West Parish Church; Rev J. M. Sloan, Free South Church; and Mr. George Thompson, jun., of Pitmedden. The opening ceremony was performed by Lord Provost Jamieson, and amongst others who took part in the proceedings were Rev. A. M. Fairbairn, of St Paul Street E.U. Church (now Principal Fairbairn, of Mansfield Colledge, Oxford), whose interest in the Association was keen and practical, and Rev. John Laidlaw, of the Free West Church (afterwards Professor Laidlaw, of Edinburgh), who was likewise in many ways a good friend to the cause.

The next step in advance was the decision to appoint a permanent secretary to devote his whole time to furthering the work of the Association. The importance of this step was fully

realised, the committee recognising that the future of the Association would largely depend on the selection of the right man for the post. Happily, there was no difficulty in making the appointment. By unanimous consent, and with the utmost heartiness, Mr. Charles Shirreffs was elected to the office, which he was destined to hold for so long a period with so much honour to himself and with so beneficial results not only to the Association, but to the cause of religion generally. Mr. Shirreffs entered on the duties of the secretaryship on 11th February, 1875. The Y.M.C.A., with buildings of its own, and with a permanent official to direct its operations, may be said to have then entered on a new era in its existence.



Mr. Charles Shirreffs.

Under the new order of things several developments soon took place in the work of the Association. In those days the Churches were not so active in seeking to reach young men. The age of organisations and agencies had not then dawned and the field was left largely to the Y.M.C.A. In many different ways it sought to utilise the

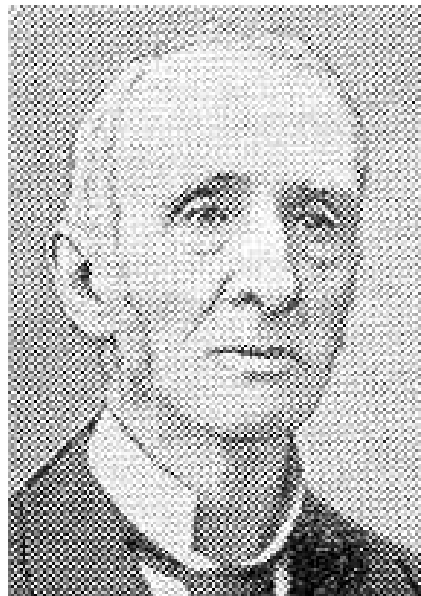
opportunity. Chief among the features of its operations was its Bible Class work. At one time, for instance, in the early stages of its history, there were ten Bible Classes being held under its auspices in various districts in the city.

A boys' meeting had been inaugurated as early as August, 1874, and it was being conducted with many tokens of success. Evangelistic meetings, which were commenced at the time of Mr. Moody's first visit, were held in Trinity Free Church, and subsequently for a considerable time in McFarland's Music Hall, Market Street. Services were also conducted in the old Record Hall, Castle Street, and during the summer different open-air stations were occupied – Footdee, Castle Street, near the Militia Barracks, King Street; and at Union Grove, the reclaimed ground on the Inches, Victoria Park Gate, etc. The literary classes and public lectures were also continued on the original lines.

In still another respect the Y.M.C.A. supplied a need which was felt in those early years, but which can hardly be realised to-day. Periodical literature was less abundant than it is now, the reading matter of the masses being greatly restricted. The Y.M.C.A. saw in this an opportunity for disseminating religious truth, and at an early stage in its existence it set to the task of tract distribution. In the early part of 1860 a beginning was made by the circulation of the "Monthly Visitor," the number of distributors in the first year being over 200, and the circulation about 10,000 monthly. This soon grew to be a great enterprise, and the "Monthly Visitor" distribution came to be one of the most important and most distinctive features of the work of the Association. In 1876 the number of distributors had increased to over 500, and the circulation for the year had risen to 228,000. The work of

distribution was carried out in the most methodical and complete manner, a house-to-house visitation being made in the city; various districts, such as Torry, Burnbanks, Banchory-Devenick, Cove, and Cults being also included. The distribution was continued for many years on the same elaborate scale until, in the changed circumstances of later times, the work was found to be largely accomplished by other means.

In every Association the prevailing tone and temper may be said to be very largely produced by the men who are at its head. This has been abundantly proved in the history of the Y.M.C.A. in Aberdeen. It was fortunate in having from its origin men of lofty character and of acknowledged ability to direct its affairs. The chairmanship was occupied by a succession of good men and true. Mr. Alexander Brand, who has been already referred to as the first chairman, was followed in office by Mr. Joseph Wood, Mr. Alexander Milne, Major Ross, Mr. Thomas Hector (now clerk and treasurer of the Aberdeen School Board), and Mr. James Souttar.



Mr. Gray C. Fraser.

Then in 1874 Mr. Gray C. Fraser, advocate, was called to the position,

and for the next quarter of a century he was more prominently identified with the Y.M.C.A. and its work than any other man in Aberdeen. Mr. Fraser was chairman continuously from 1874 to 1889, and again from 1894 to 1898. He was a man of deeply devotional spirit, of warm evangelical sympathies, and of unwearied earnestness in every good work. For many years he was perhaps the most outstanding figure in evangelical circles in the city, and he was respected by men of all schools of thought. "His very appearance," it has been well said, "betrayed that he was no common man; tall and spare, with lofty Roman features of an ascetic type, he moved with a quick and sprightly step," and with a dignity and benignity which could not fail to impress. During the greater part of Mr. Fraser's occupancy of the chair, Mr. Shirreffs was in the office of secretary, and the two worked together in the utmost harmony of aim and purpose, and in the perfect fellowship of kindred spirits. Mr. Shirreffs was pre-eminently successful as a teacher and an expositor of Scripture, and the annals of his Bible Classes form one of the brightest pages in the history of the Association. He was likewise remarkably successful in imbuing the young men with missionary spirit, and his "boys" are to be found to-day, not only in many pulpits at home, but in mission fields in all parts of the world. To the impulse received in the Bible Classes or in the Missionary Band many of them look back with grateful memories, and gladly acknowledge the influence exerted over them at the formative period of their lives. As the guide and counsellor of young men in their difficulties, Mr. Shirreffs likewise exercised wide-spread influence.

There can be no doubt that for over 20 years Mr. Fraser and Mr. Shirreffs left a deep impress on the Association, and largely gave to it the distinctive tone

which it exhibited during that long period.

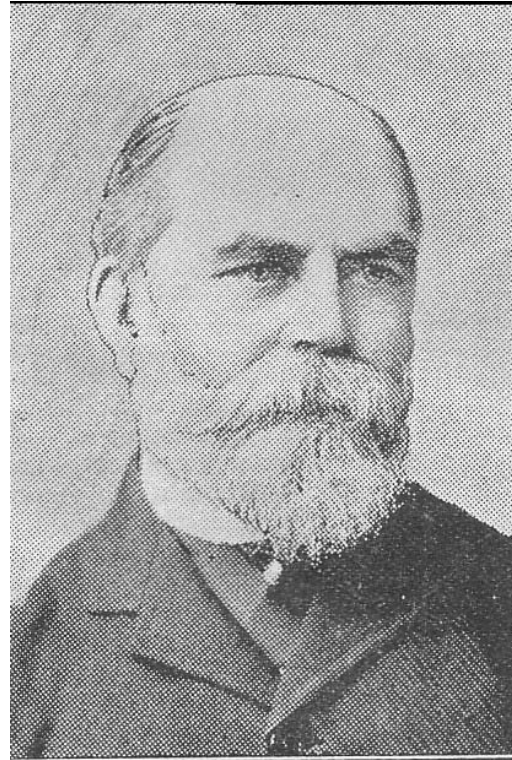
On Mr. Shirreffs resigning the secretaryship in 1895, a great public gathering was held in his honour, and he was presented with the sum of £400 in recognition of the value of his devoted service for so many years. About this time a new spirit was stirring among the members, and the committee found it necessary to frankly face the situation. In the thirty-sixth annual report there is the following reference:- "The intention of the promoters of this Association was that it should be in constitution, working and ruling purposes distinctly religious and evangelical, and the Acting Committee elected annually by the members of the Association, heartily concurring in this intention, have hitherto endeavoured to carry on the various operations of the Association with these objects prominently in view, believing that in so doing they are not only fulfilling a trust committed to their hands, but are also promoting the truest interests of the young men of the city who come under the influence of these operations. While firmly maintaining these principles, the committee have always recognised the need of healthy recreation for young men, and for this the bye-laws of the Association which have been adopted during the year afford scope. They provide for the inauguration and carrying on, independent of the General Committee, but subject to its supervision, of literary, recreative, and other agencies the intellectual and physical development of its members." This may be said to have marked the opening of another era in the history of the Association.

In the meantime, however, the question of the secretaryship gave the committee some concern. Mr.

Shirreffs was succeeded in October, 1895, by Mr. William Henderson, formerly assistant travelling secretary of the Y.M.C.A.'s in Scotland. Mr. Henderson had studied originally with the view of entering the teaching profession, but he gave up his prospects in that direction when he undertook the visitation of the Scottish Y.M.C.A.'s. On settling down to take charge of the Aberdeen Association, his work was characterised by earnest devotion, but characterised by earnest devotion, but, after two and a half years, he resigned his office. From May, 1898, until August 1899, the secretaryship was vacant. It was then filled by the appointment of Mr. James Montgomery, from the Bible Training Institute, Glasgow, but in less than a year he tendered his resignation to the committee. Mr. Montgomery gave conscientious service during his short term of office, but his health was not robust, and he felt that in some respects he had not found his true sphere of service. The present general secretary, Mr. John Montgomery, was then unanimously appointed, and he entered on his duties in 1900.

Mr. John Montgomery had many years' experience of Y.M.C.A. work before his appointment to his present post. In his native town of Montrose he was actively interested in the movement, and before coming to Aberdeen he was for several years secretary of the Govan Association. A man of business aptitude, energetic and courteous, earnest and devoted, with a keen interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of young men, he has filled the office of general secretary through a trying period of transition with general acceptance and success.

Several changes likewise occurred in the chairmanship of the Association. When Mr. Gray C. Fraser resigned the position in 1889, he was succeeded by



Mr. James Crichton.

Mr. James Crichton of Sandilands. Mr. Crichton had been vice-chairman for a number of years, and for a considerable time had been intimately identified with the work of the Association. Studious and thoughtful, he proved an instructive speaker to young men, and with quiet dignity he guided the affairs of the Association. He was a leading member of the Baptist denomination in the city – one of the founders of Union Grove Church – and eventually he had the honour of being president of the Baptist Union of Scotland. Mr. Crichton, after five years' service in the Chairmanship of the Association, retired in 1894, when Mr. Gray C. Fraser was re-elected. Mr. Fraser's final term of office extended until 1898, and in that year Mr. Adam Maitland was induced to accept the position, which he has held continuously ever since. In 1901 it was decided that, instead of a chairman and vice-chairman, the Association should have a president and one or



Mr. Adam Maitland, President.

more vice-presidents, and Mr. Maitland, if not the first chairman, is at any rate the first president of the Aberdeen Y.M.C.A. The value to the Association of his influence and work has been very great. His high reputation in the business and public life of the city has helped to give the Association a certain standing in the eyes of the community. Along with the striking ability as a man of affairs which has impressed his fellow-citizens, he has commended himself to the Association by his ardent sympathy with its aims and objects and his active interest through many years in various forms of religious and benevolent work. The Association is fortunate, at its jubilee, in having in the president's chair one who thus adorns the position and commands the esteem of the community generally.

An extensive scheme of alterations on the buildings was completed in 1900. The existing accommodation

was remodelled with the view of adapting it more fully to the new development of the work, and the large hall was considerably enlarged, and the new covered entrance provided from Union Street between the Institute Buildings and the Music Hall. Even with all these improvements it has come to be felt that the premises are still unsuited to the development of the social side of the work, and a proposal is now under consideration for the disposal of the building and the erection on another site of a new institute on thoroughly up-to-date lines. Among the features of the Association's work to-day, there may be mentioned the Sunday Morning Bible Class, "Men's Own" Meeting on Sunday afternoons, Sunday Evening Evangelistic Service, Foreign Missionary Union, Bible Reading Union, Mission to Corporation Lodging-House, Bible Class for Juniors, and Saturday Night Fellowship Meeting for Christian Workers. They may be termed the distinctively religious agencies, and then on the intellectual, physical, and social side there are the Literary and Debating Society, Elocution Class, Gymnastic, Cricket, and Cycling Clubs, Boys' Brigade, etc. At one time educational classes were included in the programme, but these have now been superseded by the evening classes so abundant in the city.

There are two important branches in connection with the Y.M.C.A. For many years a mission has been carried on under the auspices of the Association at Causewayend, and much fruitful work has been done. The Causewayend. Mission, which has been for long under the capable charge of Mr. George M. Smith, is still a vigorous and successful adjunct of the Association. Then, at Bucksburn, there is a branch Y.M.C.A., carrying on various department of work.



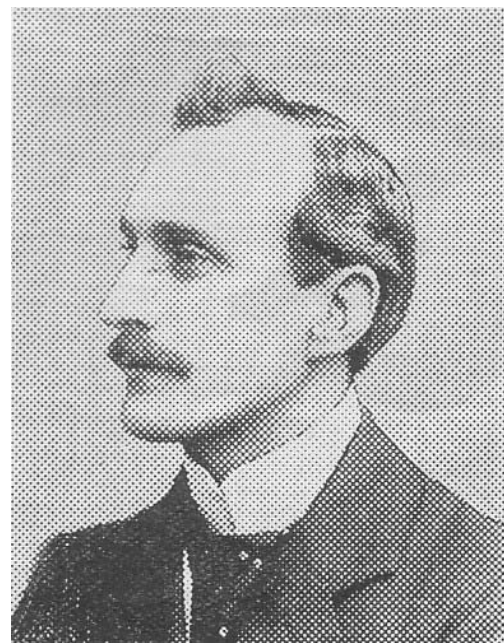
Mr. J. D. Mackie, Vice-President.

It would be interesting to refer to the names prominently associated with the Y.M.C.A. during its half-century of life and work, but very few must suffice. Sir William Henderson and Professor Pirrie have already been referred to, and among other outstanding personalities there may be mentioned Mr. James Murray Garden, advocate, who was so closely interested in the work, and whose death in the prime of manhood deprived the Association of a warm friend; Mr C. B. Davidson, LL.D., advocate, a hearty supporter of many years' standing; Mr. Alexander McRobbie, and Mr. John Raffan. Amongst those still surviving, reference may be made to Mr. Thomas Kyd, who so ably and acceptably held the office of vice-president for a term of years; and Mr. William Valentine, all of whom rendered good service in their day. The present office-bearers are:- Hon. President, His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen; president, Mr. Adam Maitland; vice-presidents, Mr. J. D.



Mr. William Sangster, Vice-President.

Mackie and Mr. William Sangster; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. A. F. Davidson, solicitor; general secretary, Mr. John Montgomery; assistant secretary, Mr. J. H. Shepherd; acting committee, Messrs. James R. Brown, A. C. Bruce, A. B. Cameron, Thomas Doig, James Donald, Henry R. Dowie, Councillor W. L. Dunn, William Farquharson, James G. Gordon, M. H. Sinclair, R. F. Stephen, and Alexander Watt.



[Photo. Lawson & Ross, Aberdeen.]

Mr. John Montgomery, General Secretary.

In seeking to recall the records of the Y.M.C.A. in Aberdeen, it is impossible to overlook the influence which it has exercised in a general way on the religious life of the city. For one thing, it has not set itself up as in opposition to the churches, but has worked cordially along with them, and in this way has enjoyed the co-operation and support of ministers of all denominations. From time to time the Association has also given an impetus to all evangelical work in the city by its special missions conducted by well-known evangelists and preachers, such as Messrs. Moody and Sankey, Major Whittle, Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, Dr. Pentecost, and others, while in other movements of a general kind, such as the missions conducted by Gipsy Smith and Dr Torry, it has given valuable assistance.

Both inside and outside the city of Aberdeen, the members of the Y.M.C.A. have taken their share in the work of the world, and in many walks of life they have held a prominent place. Locally, the Association can claim that no fewer than 12 of its members have served on the Town Council – this number including one Lord Provost, several baillies, more than one city treasurer, and at least one Dean of Guild. In the wider world outside, its sons have also played an important part – 55 have become ministers of various denominations, and there can also be traced 32 doctors, 9 lawyers, 18 home missionaries and evangelists, and many teachers. Most outstanding of all, however, is the number of foreign missionaries who have been nurtured in the Association, 64 having been directly connected with it at an early period of their lives. The list includes the names of many famous and honoured missionaries – among them the present Moderator of the United Free Church, Rev. Dr. Laws of Livingstonia – and they are to be

found scattered all over the world. Thus it has come to pass that at its time of jubilee, the thoughts of many have turned not only from other cities and from manses at home, but also from far-off lands – from Africa, from China, from India, and from the islands of the sea – to the old Institute in Union Street, where they received the early impressions which so largely shaped their own life and destiny, and which through them have exerted an influence to the uttermost parts of the earth.