

Address
delivered at the
International Convention
Y. M. C. A.
Philadelphia Pa
May 8th 1889

No 15-

Subject
Mutual Counsel

Philadelphia Pa
May 8 1899
J. W. C. C.
Government of Pennsylvania
delivered at the
Philadelphia

Nov 10

My Dear General
Respect

1.
Brethren:

On a former occasion it was my privilege to remark that, "The Y. M. C. Associations had been admirably organized and extended; they have been, little by little formed into groups, the groups into Divisions, the Divisions into Departments and the Departments regulated by suitable Congresses. Stamp-
ed with national and inter-national names."

This biennial meeting is one of the Congresses referred to. Its object is mutual study, mutual counsel and the prospective increase of Divine favor. To those who thus gather together the results have thus far been intrinsic and abundant. The mutual study has served to bring up the knowledge of young men less familiar with good and uniform methods and to vivify and enthuse all hearts, and especially the luke-warm and thus to better prepare the various delegates to go back to their homes, churches and associations fresher and brighter equipped for their appointed business, and earnestly ready

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for recruiting and training and blessing those who sent them. The intrinsic effect of such gatherings from the time of the Apostles till now, has been to mark the way with mile-stones, to emphasize the gains, to divest old methods of superfluities, and to produce that Divinely ordered agreement which our Master has ever demanded of his people for best results. Yes, these conventions are, when successful, epoches of progress to the participants, and through them a source of developement to all whom they reach.

We cannot too much emphasize the effects of mutual counsel. Our Lord's way was to send out his friends two and two. Two brethren both having in their hearts the controlling love of Christ, can read the Divine word together, converse familiarly one with the other and reveal difficulties and secure positive help from continued intercourse, while they drink deeply from the fountain of hope, comfort and joy, because they keep Christ's injunction to agree the one

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with the other, as they walk, as they meditate and as they converse by the way like the disciples en route to Emaus. The Lord himself projects his spirit into the open door of their hearts, so that they are both brought up to his own heavenly plan^E of feeling, of thinking and of acting. This choice picture^{of two & two} furnishes the elements of mutual counsel. When the groups of two come together and Christ himself receives them and listens to their stories of weakness, of trial, of effort and of success, He chides, he chastens, he instructs, he encourages, Yea, he even at times gives glimpses of triumph; and so the enlarged mutual counsel is blended, is magnified and woven into a golden record for outside instruction and use.

Who that was there does not remember an early convention at Portland, Maine, where such golden record found its inception and began its fruition? Oh! the tears, the repentance, the self renunciation and the earnest prayers which then moulded together

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the active forces of that assembly; Against Detroit, Mich. where Dr. Duffield fell ^{in death} while delivering the address of welcome, and passed in triumph to his reward, what delegate, who was there, does not recall the intense fervor of that occasion and how that whole city of Detroit was shaken, where the peace that passeth understanding and the joy that was full, pervaded the homes, the meetings and even the neighboring excursions. The intrinsic and extrinsic results of that mutual counseling can never be blotted out.

Once more in San Francisco, from the joyous welcome in the land of fruits and flowers on to the brotherly grasp of all hands in circles, when the final binding song was sung, who that was present ~~did~~ ^{id} not rejoice at the glad tidings that came from all quarters, at the enthusiasm that was universal, and at the promise of seed-sowing and harvest which have since been reaped all over the world?

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est of all when enjoyed in the bonds of peace and

loving fellowship. Lastly, the Divine favor. The
 race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong.
 The spirit is not in the whirlwind but in the still
 small voice. The greatest helpfulness is not found,
 humanly speaking, in the tallest or strongest child,
 youth or man. It is not necessarily held and control-
 ed by the largest, firmest, completest organization
 of believers, nor by the multiplicity of them, because,
 God is swifter than the racer, more potent than the
 warrior, more powerful than the whirlwind, and able to
 lift up the lowly and set him on the hill top. It is
 because God looketh not upon the outward appearance
 and trusteth not in the strength of battalions but He
 looketh upon the heart even the broken and contrite
 soul ^{which} He does not despise. Yea, he demonstrates his
 power and his ^{helpfulness} ~~happiness~~ by making the foolish things
 of the world confound the wisdom of the wise, and the
 weak things of the world bring to naught the things
 that are mighty. ^{True} ~~is~~ my brethren, in the past you have

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6.
endeavored to set before your fellow men the great things that your Y. M. C. Association has accomplished, and you will again put before them committees and secretaries and buildings and libraries, and gymnasiums and night schools and branches for colleges, for commercial travelers, for railroads; and you will show the immense fruits, the economic products, the astonishing expansions which have girdled the world in belts of blessings; and perhaps in Asia, in Africa and elsewhere using this simple organism, through this truly Catholic series of combinations, you will demonstrate the practicability of converting to Christ men of other religions that your own. But do not forget to wait at Jerusalem till you are endued with power from on high.

Let us repent of our besetting sins that our bodies and our minds, yea, our very souls may be ^{from impurity,} cleansed from every secret fault. ^{and take on lovely attitudes & attain} If we can do this, do it honestly, do it thoroughly, then can the Lord build his work on foundations that cannot be shaken. God grant us

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this petition ~~then~~, First, to fit us and fill us with
his Holy Spirit. ^{to} Second, give us sweet counsel
^{to} together. Third, replenish us with increase of
knowledge, and then send us back to our respective
people with our armor brighter and our weapons newly
pointed for a resistless warfare till ^{The} victory and
true glory shall gather us in.

this petition ~~men~~. First, to lift us and fill us with
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