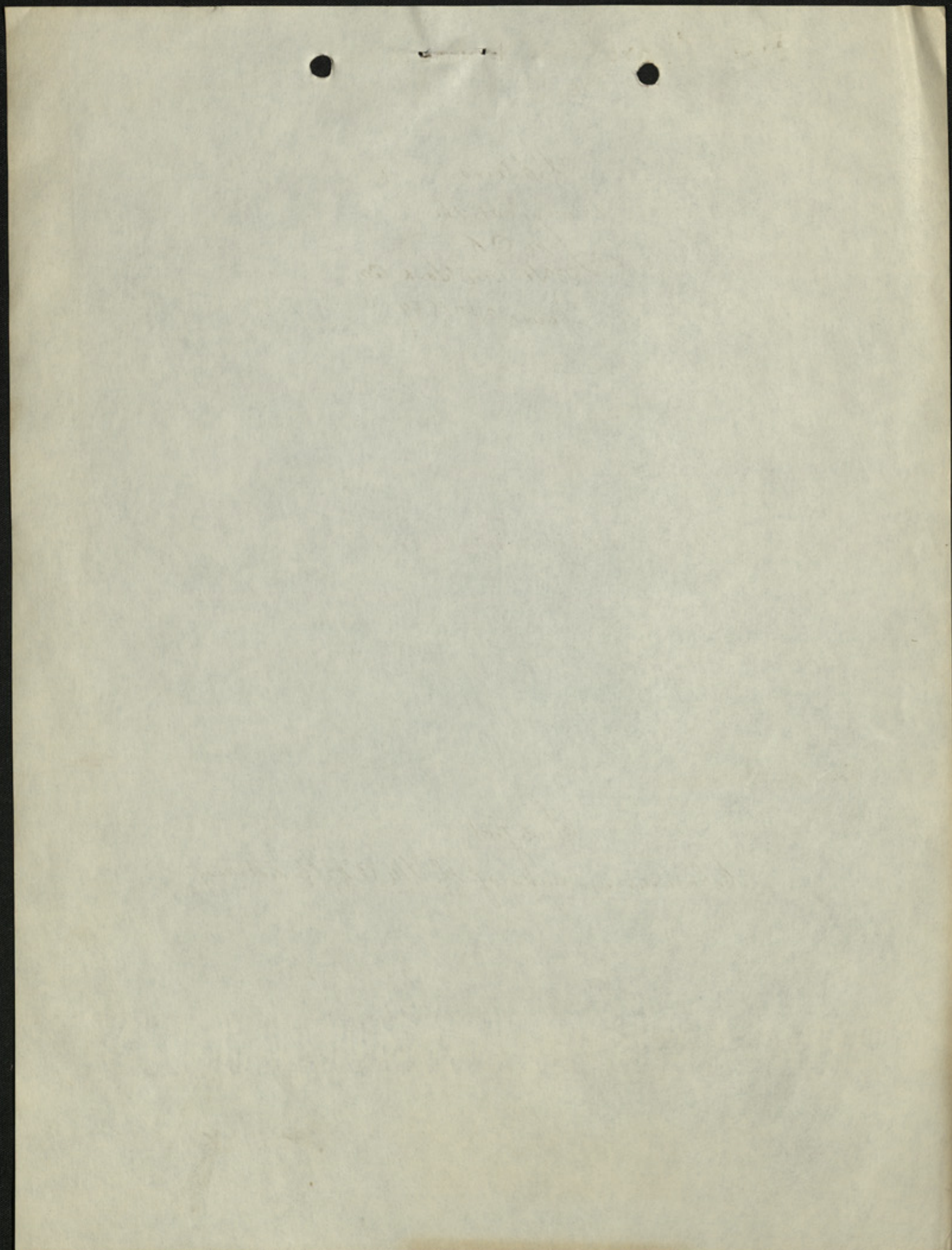


Address  
delivered at the  
Y. M. C. A.  
23rd New York City  
January 28<sup>th</sup> 1889

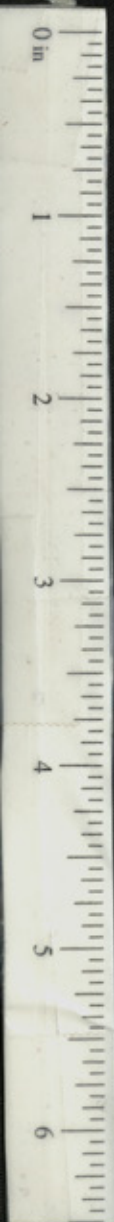
No 61

Subject  
Character and needs of the Y. M. C. A. Undertakings



Character & Needs of  
I The Berlin Conference of the Y. M. C. A. undertakings.

The Executive Committee of the Y.M.C.A. whose Headquarters are here in New York, during the summer of 1884, kindly gave to me the credentials of a delegate to their International Convention to meet in August at Berlin. Accordingly with the delegates from the different civilized Nations, <sup>I had</sup> a most profitable and delightful season of seven days. The President, Herr Von Behrens dorf, Chamberlain to Emperor William presided, with ease and dignity, over the large convention, giving his opening address with equal facility in three different languages, the German, French and English. We were especially blessed in having with us, that honored man and charming Christian gentleman, who was the founder of the first Young Mens' Christian Association, which he then a young man with a few coadjutors, started in London nearly forty years ago. George Williams He appeared to be full of interest and energy, much like our own Wm E Dodge, of New York, who has so lately left us and gone to his reward. <sup>(Von Schlimbach)</sup> I had attended several of our International gatherings in this country, as those held at



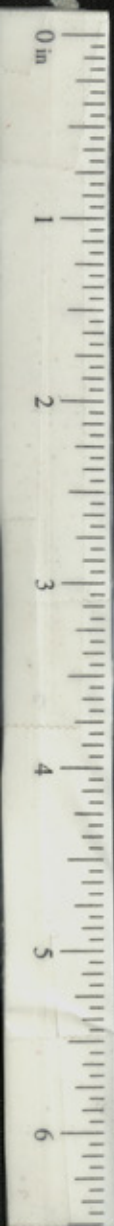
The first of these is the fact that the  
the second is the fact that the  
the third is the fact that the  
the fourth is the fact that the  
the fifth is the fact that the  
the sixth is the fact that the  
the seventh is the fact that the  
the eighth is the fact that the  
the ninth is the fact that the  
the tenth is the fact that the

Washington, at Detroit, at Lowell, and Portland Me.

No Christian Assemblies could have excelled them in the working power they seemed to represent; in the energetic measures they adopted; and certainly none in the spiritual impress they left behind them upon the community where they for a few days sojourned and labored for the salvation of young men.

In these respects, the Berlin conference was perhaps hardly abreast of the others. But it was a most remarkable body of earnest Christian souls, speaking various tongues, showing a perfect unity of the Spirit, praying God to lead them, while they sought to lay broadly and deeply the best foundations for awakening anew the zeal and energy of members of all churches, with special view to extending the helping hand of Christian love to young men.

The German and French delegates were especially persistent in questioning the English and American Secretaries concerning their methods of procedure.



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How do raise so much money ? How do you build so many costly structures ? What about your Gymnasiums and other provisions for amusement ? Tell us concerning your literary arrangements, your lectures, your libraries, your Evening-classes. What is that ~~new thing~~ grand organization called the "Railroad work" in which even Railway officials <sup>are led to</sup> take an <sup>are making</sup> interest, and to which the managers ~~make~~ large contributions ? And again how is it with <sup>your</sup> ~~the~~ Bible-classes; who teach them ? <sup>Bro. These</sup> Is there not serious danger of introducing heresy ~~in~~ ? Do describe <sup>your</sup> ~~the~~ Evangelizing process <sup>es</sup> - the Meetings for prayer and conference ; the neighborhood Meetings; the visiting Committees sent to the streets, <sup>to</sup> the jails and the Almshouses <sup>staying away, and</sup> Is there no danger of laymen <sup>in</sup> in their blind zeal, getting up too much steam for the Engine ? Will not the Y.M.C.A. <sup>efforts</sup> forgetting the Church division lines, take away all the best workers from the Churches, and so the Churches suffer a great loss ? How shall <sup>in Germany, like in France</sup> ~~we~~ answer objections like these, coming from faithful pastors ? Several times was our quick witted and well informed Secretary, Mr Morse of New York made to



stand on the platform and be bombarded with such queries as

*for a long time*  
*the questions were* these. All asked kindly, and answered most readily and

*Fruits.*

happily. *season at Berlin* I assure you this did me great good. *It showed me fruits* It taught

me to appreciate better than I had done before, the wonderful

development of these Christian Associations, the grand

problems they were *attempting to* solve for humanity and the remarkable

catholicity of Spirit they were fostering and every where

diffusing. They, like the steam transportation and the

telegraph line, have already girdled the world. They, like

the Skirmish line to an *active* army, have searched out the

hedges, the pitfalls, the nooks and *corners* of the variegated

fields of operations.

*Behold further fruitage!*

*They prepare the way* By their week-day open-rooms, and

open houses *(Poo Kee/sie)* for the Sabbath-day advance. *The* warm wel-

*of young men* come is at the Steam-boat landing, the Railway station and the

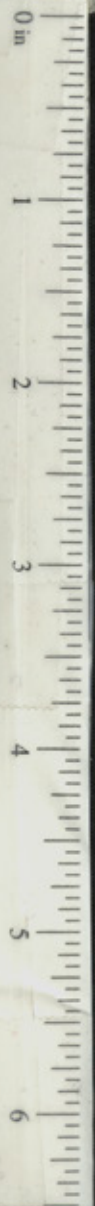
Market gathering. To the traveler or the stranger, they say

"Come with us and we will do thee good." They introduce the

new-comer to Pastor, to Bible class, to Society of Christian

*you are some of them.*

always when possible  
able  
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(4)

(3)

Endeavor, and <sup>always when possible (5)</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>able</sup> to a respect ~~the~~ social life.

*Ardent  
churchmen  
ask:*

But why does not the Church of Christ do all this? Or in other words why do not the churches, like the Synagogues of the Jews, take care of their own?

*§ The answer to objectors.*

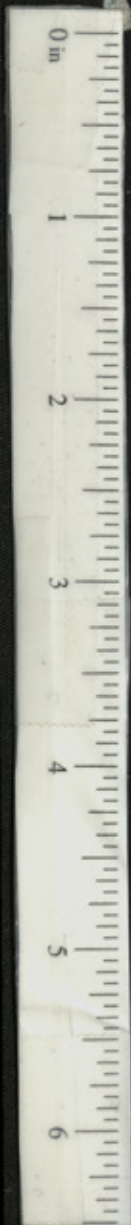
The best answer I can make to this is, Yankee like, to ask another question. *What is the Church of Christ?* <sup>^</sup> What makes up the Church of Christ?

My layman's answer, to which I think all ought to assent, is *however you define it*, that Christ's Church is made up of all the believers in <sup>^</sup>

Christ both living and dead. And the churches are different organizations of believers of enough differences, like the distinguishing badges of divisions and corps in an army, to make them known and recognized along their line of useful work.

*[individual  
associations]*

The Y.M.C.A. bands <sup>^</sup> proceed from these organizations. They go and they come. They keep the fences between <sup>the churches</sup> ~~the~~ full of open bars and gateways: but never, never are <sup>^</sup> ~~these~~ *true* skirmishers disloyal to their own brigades or divisions.



What section is this?

Apennine

of mountains

Where is the single <sup>Cocal</sup> church that can run along 300 miles of Railroad, gather the young men into assemblies, give them proper books to read, and preach the simple gospel to them?

Where is the combination of churches that has week-day and Sunday machinery equal to this -- or equal to the religious <sup>those</sup> wants of Colleges and Universities which progressive intellectualism is every where <sup>striving to</sup> developing <sup>a +</sup> without God without Bible truth?

The church at work. The agencies.

These Y.M.C.A. bodies are ready armed and equipped for business -- they are the pioneers of the Churches -- nay,

my friends, they are part and parcel of the Churches themselves; they are <sup>simply</sup> the Churches at work. Look at the Home Mission Struggle -- <sup>Again be hale</sup> <sup>whole sections broken</sup> the grand foreign Mission fields --

Glorious you say! Souls saved, women rescued from bondage -- youth redeemed and built up in character -- in spite of <sup>of hindrances,</sup>

the prevailing so-called scientific-doubting and literary scoffing which like the snow-capped mountains are often high

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and lifted up, but handsome as they may be, cold and frigid, <sup>and</sup>  
<sup>over</sup> against the best interest of society.

Yes, as in the days of the Apostles, the Missions <sup>are</sup> thriving and  
 enlarging in face of the world ~~and the Church is growing~~.

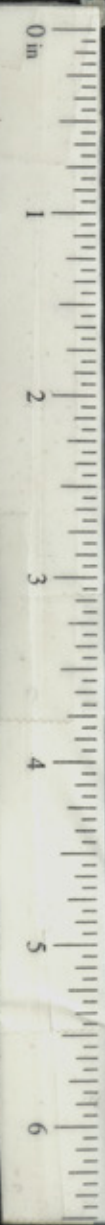
Yet <sup>by whom</sup> ~~are~~ these grand results accomplished? Answer: By <sup>representatives</sup>  
<sup>yes, by the Churches, yet it is by</sup> the Churches, the live Churches working through their ~~missions~~  
~~Societies.~~ <sup>Among them</sup> The Bible Society finds its place.

~~Again~~ the leaves of the Bible are like the leaves of the trees

for multitude -- and they carry the word of God to every <sup>tribe</sup>  
 nation on the globe. Who does this and so renders every  
 man, who rejects God, without excuse? It is the Bible Socie-  
 ties whom the churches put forth so that they can penetrate  
 every home and family that will open the doors to them.

How glad then must the churches be to add <sup>our</sup> ~~much~~ much needed  
 helper, the Association for youth, whose province <sup>it is</sup> to set youth  
 to help youth; to make each young man his brothers keeper; and  
 to put into the field an agency able to rescue those who have  
 already fallen under temptation.

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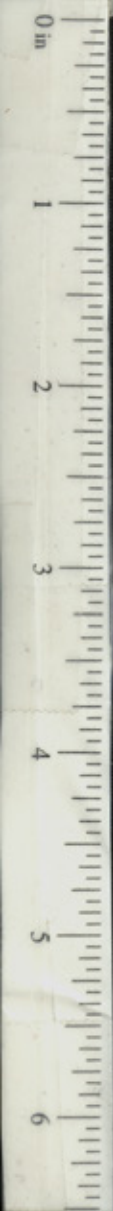
(8)  
*Working for*  
*The advantage of youths.*

An experience of upwards of fifty years has shown me many men who have been drunkards, licentious men and hardened sinners, arrested in their downward course and brought back to the innocency of childhood. It is never too late to mend. Genuine repentance which of course involves the utter abandonment of criminal practices is always possible. I will not limit the mercy of God; for *God, the Heavenly Father* ~~He~~ loveth mercy rather than sacrifice. *If we can apprehend the truth,* He is kinder than the noblest father?

He is more tender than the gentlest, most self denying mother. Yet the saved among the middleaged and *the* old, who have long led abandoned lives, are lamentably few. It is hard for a poor soul withered by avarice to put on a generous expansion.

It is hard for a debauchee to recover his lost strength or exclude the filth of his life from his mind! It is hard for the passion for gambling to subside -- or for fraud to end in an honest life. *let them be* Oh! Reform, reform, by all means!

God give us reform. But more, a thousand times more, give us the prevention! *of its necessity* Against trembling drunkenness, rotten vice



Wierman

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vice, miserly avarice, gambling and cheating and all impurity  
and degadation, let <sup>wise men</sup> put up the bars and close the gates

before these vices come trooping <sup>in</sup> to our enclosures. How?

By godliness—

*We must begin early.*

Godliness is profitable to all things. Let the child  
and the youth walk with God like Enoch of old, and the child

and the youth are safe for the Here and the Hereafter.

*in Christian association*

Men and women working for young men mean just this -- we will

lead them to God <sup>to God</sup> who manifests himself to people in Christ --

so that God, through Christ, may keep them from the evils depicted <sup>that our daily press</sup> in the papers.

~~Oh~~ Oh! How they, the zealous working Christians, long to

adapt all their agencies <sup>to</sup> to this end! ~~They~~ *Away from home.* Y.M.C.A. is the

best agency for youth wandering away from home, the best

that I know.

The mother tells the Secretary in Berlin: My son is in Chicago  
on such a street in business -- do what you can for him.

A letter is sent to the Secretary at Chicago. He finds the  
son, leads him to friends and if possible to the Friend of friends.

The Lord bless <sup>such</sup> ~~the~~ effort. A stranger in a strange land responds

1013  
Hermann von Wissmann

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Die Zeit

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quickly to the tone of genuine sympathy.

~~§~~ *Parents want good sons.*

Come now -- let us look facts in the face. -- Of the thousands  
of young men from seventeen to thirty five in ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>*This city*</sup> can  
you do too much ! Even a vicious mother wants a good son;

How much more the good mothers ! A father who rejects ~~the~~  
the Bible because it condemns him, still in his heart wants  
an honest and virtuous son. Then let us all come up

heroically to lend a helping hand to this efficient Society  
which embraces such a variety of methods *fitting to the needs of this epoch.*

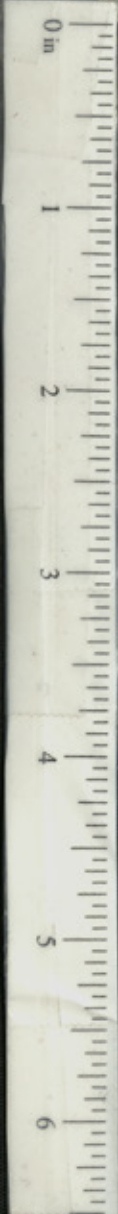
~~§~~ *The country needs good sons.*  
Some of us ~~periled~~ <sup>*periled*</sup> life to get such glorious results, as we,  
who are not pessimists, now plainly see ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>*to have been gained*</sup> --- Constitution;

laws; Congress, -- courts, -- Executive, -- schools, -- churches --

great parties -- rich states and territories and many of them;  
*railways binding together Eastern & Western loyalty.*  
revenues abundant..an' unbroken currency; -- letters and

papers brought to our very doors without delay or confusion;

--home-steads open to seekers, -- and pensions in profusion



1. Aerial to water - 100 ft. to 150 ft.

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2. In water - 100 ft. to 150 ft.

unlimited opportunities for the enterprising; and what not?  
 sustain we entreat you, the sacrifice and labor which has  
 been put forth, by fostering the good and wiping out the bad  
 in men. Here is, in this society a good channel for merely  
 patriotic effort. *§ Scale to duty - in view of Eternity!*

And now as we raise our eyes to Heaven and think of Eternity-  
*An endless life!*  
 An endless day! An endless year! How can we grasp the

thought! *can we not come into* ~~unison~~ unison with the Divine Spirit so that  
 Eternity may be a perpetual joy! *If we can & do* Then no matter how long!

If we ourselves get right, we will help the right. *§*

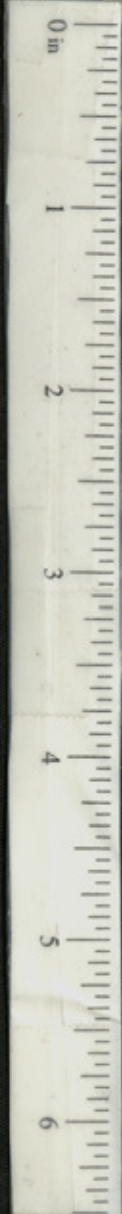
*Organization not enough.*

In conclusion I want to do as I did during our war of Rebel-

*§ " In view of hard work & sacrifice!*  
 lion - I want to appeal to those who should be enlisted to

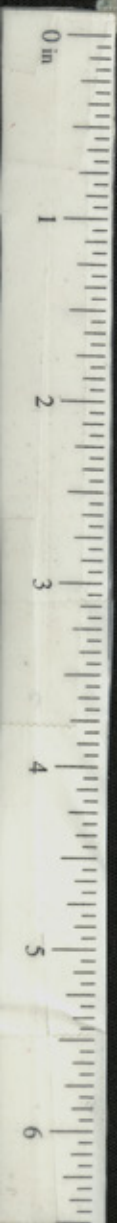
accomplish the great work of covering the hills and filling  
 the valleys of our country with a host of young men, who  
 shall be as a whole, superior to any who have preceded them.

While in the summer of 1862, I was at home recovering from  
 wounds, the Governor of Maine sent me to the sea-port towns  
 where there had been a little backwardness in enlistments,



to canvass for volunteers. What did I say ! Did I appeal to them --showing them how easy was the work demanded of them? Did I tell them that they would be kept in the rear where they could have a thousand privileges and little or no danger ! No ! No indeed ! I called to their manhood. I told them the country was in danger. She needed her sons as never before. Our fathers had given us a rich inheritance -- There must be enough love of country <sup>devoted to</sup> in us to preserve it -- I told of constant toil, of prolonged sicknesses, of innumerable wounds -- of groaning ambulances and overfilled hospitals. I told of the ability, numbers and determination of the foes of the Union; and then I said, "Men, Patriots, you see me weary, worn and wounded; but not disheartened. God willing I am going back to the front in a few days; come and go with me." Great tears would roll down the cheeks of strong men, as they cried out: "We will go; we will go". They filled the quota speedily -- and host after host

to canvass for volunteers.



stemmed the current of war, 'till there came victory and peace and a saved Union .

So, Christians call you, <sup>to day</sup> young men, to labor for the great Leader, Christ, and for his young men. <sup>Be ready to enlist -</sup> Be ready to suffer --

not as recipients of big bounties, but as good soldiers ready for toil, hardship, self-denial, ~~and~~ ardent, persistent

work. Blasphemous, avaricious, profane, Sabbath-breaking,

gambling, back-biting, dishonest, covetous men may grow stal-

wart, and for a time cut a figure in the world because of the

energy of mind and body that they possess -- but Oh! how much

brighter another picture! <sup>After the struggle of the right against the wrong</sup> What a magnificent spectacle

to behold a God-fearing multitude of strong youths filling

the ranks of America's workers, <sup>and over all the land</sup> marching abreast to a

clear eyed and pure hearted victory.

In the name of Jehovah, our helping Lord, so let it be.

the  
war  
has  
nearly  
begun.

Given by Ge. at Y. M. C. A.  
237 St. New York, Monday night.  
Jan 28 / 89.