

## The Congregationalist

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mangled by being caught in the cogs of some wheels of a cotton mill. The fingers were bleeding and the bones were hurt. He wanted help. The forces of the machines were, of course, divine, but the skill of the surgeon was infinitely more divine. The force of the machinery was mighty, but blind; the skill of the surgeon was intelligent and remedial. It is not enough to know only a God who has made machinery in which the fingers of the careless are mangled and broken. It is vastly more true to all the spiritual instincts that a bleeding and suffering soul can come to a real God who is the Saviour of sinners. Nor does one know God until he knows a God who can pardon his sins, create in him a clean heart, give him spiritual food and drink, supply him with strength, make his path light before him, comfort him in sorrow and give to him glimpses of paradise. He does not know God until he sees Him in His fullness. Nor can he know Him until he first sees himself as himself is, of a fallen human nature which absolutely needs regeneration by the Holy Ghost, a soul helpless without the divine power and yearning for that grace which is in the fullness of God through the eternal Son, in whose blood at Calvary was the expiation of the penitent's sin. This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Him whom Thou didst send, even Jesus Christ.

## HONORING A NOBLE LAYMAN.

BY REV. C. S. SARGENT, ADAMS, MASS.

On the evening of Feb. 21 a complimentary dinner was given to Cephas Brainerd, Esq., at the Holland House in New York City, upon his retirement from the chairmanship of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A. after twenty-five years of service. In these years he has seen the organization grow to its present power and has had a large part in creating that power. Mr. Brainerd is a successful lawyer but he might have been a far richer one had it not been for the months and years given in this life labor of love for his Lord. In this material, money-making age here shines a sign of better things.

There were assembled at this dinner many multi-millionaires and statesmen and merchants, men whose interests were in all parts of the world and whose argosies were floating on all oceans. And they came to honor their fellow-citizen, not for his brilliancy as pleader, though that is not to be forgotten, nor for his far-sighted sagacity as a counselor, though that has brought safety and fortune to many, but for his Christlike service of love to young men. Had he not been the brilliant, sagacious lawyer he could not have so enriched his service and made it of such priceless worth. He broke in his life a precious box of very costly offering, whose sweet savor shall be wafted down the ages.

There was no false note of over praise in the words and letters of that evening uttered by governors, senators, warriors, merchants and ministers, all telling of love and gratitude and appreciation. Mr. William E. Dodge presided with inherited grace and speaker followed speaker, from Dr. Cuyler, who could hear no word on account of his deafness but who said he must speak, till General Howard, who stood with empty

sleeve but full heart, brought his tribute with many others. The words of Justice Field and William M. Evarts with many, many others, till a new day was born in the darkness without, told of the high service of an unselfish man.

And now what was the work at which he wrought, for to many he is an unknown man though all have seen the effect of his thought and plan. In 1866 the convention of the American Y. M. C. A. was held in Albany and then located the headquarters of its executive committee in New York City, where it has since continued. Before that the headquarters had been changed with the annual conventions. Soon after its removal to New York Mr. Brainerd was elected a member of the committee. In 1867 he was chosen chairman and continued to occupy that position for twenty-five full years. At the time when Mr. Brainerd assumed this responsible position the associations were small in number and in membership, poor in property and doing but little definite work for young men. The committee of which he then became the head was only a committee for the oversight of the little work being done and supervising the feeble extension. There were no general agents to visit and direct, to oversee and advise.

There were no state committees. There was only one association building. What report was made was a little leaflet. The state committees, the general agents, the buildings and the systematizing of the present noble body were the fruit of the labor and thought of the national committee, of which Mr. Brainerd was the head. Their report is a volume filling hundreds of pages. Twenty-five years ago no state secretaries existed, now there are thirty-eight with sixty secretaries employed by them and twenty-six secretaries employed by the international committee. A great work has been begun and is being vigorously carried on among railroad men, college students, Indians, the colored people of the South and the German young men of the North. Under the direct supervision of the international committee in this quarter of a century has been developed the work in Japan, India, Mexico and Brazil. Look at these comparative statistics:

	1886	1892
Associations reporting.....	63	1,372
Total membership.....	15,498	227,090
Secretaries and other employed officers,	12	1,192
Buildings.....	1	268
Value of buildings.....	\$10,000	\$11,902,520
Total value property.....	90,000	12,878,595
Annual expenses of local work.....	50,000	1,992,328
Associations in colleges.....	1	400
Railroad secretaries employed.....	0	111

These figures tell but part of the story. Instead of being scattered bands they are all organized into a great army and they are working together as no other religious organization except the Roman Catholic Church, and even that is eclipsed in many ways.

Many beautiful thoughts were borne on the loving words of the evening, but none exceeded in tender truth and Christian nobleness the expression of thoughtful appreciation of Mr. Brainerd himself when he refused the crown of glory for himself alone but would share it with the absent wife. Woman has often been praised and pledged, but never more nobly than by Gen. O. O. Howard, who spoke of the heroine at home who had made him brave on the field, and by Mr. Brainerd who told us that never in these years had he gone forth on his task

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but in the sunlight of a cheerful "God-speed" from the dear one of his home.