

J. J. Paine

Retirement of
Cephas Brainerd, Esq.
from the
Chairmanship of the International Committee
of
Young Men's Christian Associations.



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

EDWARD BRainerd, Chairman.
Benjamin G. Wetmore, Treasurer.
Richard C. Moore, General Secretary.

GENERAL OFFICE,
42 EAST Twenty-THIRD STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

July 23, 1892.

My dear Friend:-

I send you printed copy of extract from the minutes of the Committee relating to Mr. Brainerd's resignation and its acceptance. After careful deliberation it seemed best to the Committee to elect as Mr. Brainerd's immediate successor one who had been associated with him in the work of the Committee for the last twenty-one years, attending steadily its meetings, as well as many of the Conventions, and fully acquainted with the methods and administration of the Committee's work, Mr. Benj. C. Wetmore. Mr. Wetmore consented to accept the office for the present, and however long he may see his way clear to serve I am sure he will have our hearty respect and co-operation in carrying on the responsible work intrusted to the Committee.

In place of Mr. Wetmore as treasurer Mr. Frederick B. Schenck was chosen. Mr. Schenck is president of the Brooklyn Association, and was also president of the last New York State Convention, and has for many years been cashier of the Mercantile National Bank of this city, a tried Association officer and worker whom the Committee is very fortunate in securing as its treasurer.

I feel sure that these brethren and all the members of the Committee will have your prayers and sympathy in the discharge of the new and grave responsibilities which the retirement of Mr. Brainerd brings upon them.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. J. T. Bowne,
Springfield, Mass.

RC Moore



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF YOUNG
MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

40 East 23d St., New-York.

The following extracts from the minutes of the International Committee are printed with the conviction that they will be interesting to Association friends in this and other lands.

From the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 1892.

Mr. Brainerd presented his resignation in the following form:
A careful consideration of my relation to the work of the International Committee since my resignation was presented at the January meeting has only served to confirm in my own mind the correctness of the conclusion upon which my action then proceeded. Painful as the severing of this relation is to me, I feel, nevertheless, obliged to ask the acceptance of my resignation as a member of this Committee. But I would be glad if it could be accepted as of July 2, 1892, that being the day on which I was elected chairman in 1867. It is perhaps proper

tive purpose and activity of the organization. The sphere and work of the salaried officer of the Association— now known as the General Secretary— were wholly undefined. The Association, indeed, as a permanent institution, had not yet asserted its right to existence. But Mr. Brainerd had already, three years before accepting the Chairmanship, defined clearly on the floor of the International Convention what we now understand to be the undisputed and definite object of the Associations, a work exclusively for young men by young men.

“The idea then was unpopular, and continued to be unpopular for years. Mr. Brainerd not only adhered to it tenaciously, but with great wisdom, in his position as Chairman of the Committee, fostered among workers and leaders that understanding of the distinctive purpose of the Associations which gradually grew and prevailed.

“For the first five years from 1867 to 1872 he conducted the whole correspondence of the Committee, and since then, while deputing very much of it, he has personally conducted enough to maintain the leadership and direction of the whole. Among his many gifts he possesses that of an expert, wise, and interesting correspondent, and his letters evoked from the beginning grateful replies. These now constitute numberless testimonies, stored in the Committee's office, and certifying how greatly Mr. Brainerd has aided, by timely counsel, a multitude of Associations and workers throughout the country—a multitude in no wise confined to Association leaders in the large cities, but including many an unnoticed worker in obscure and quiet fields.

“During the first three years of his chairmanship he also edited the quarterly magazine published by the Committee, and through which his influence was widely exerted upon the Associations.

“Helpful influence has also been exerted by the Committee through the publication of pamphlets upon the work, its purpose and agencies. All of this literature, beginning with the earlier years, received his careful supervision.

“As the secretaries of the Committee and the departments of its work grew in number, these were in succession placed under the direction of the Chairman, together with the new corre-

spondence involved. He shaped each department in reference to its own development, and above all in its relation to the whole work. To maintain the unity of the whole work, and to guard against any exaggerated emphasis upon departmental work, were ever his conservative desire and wise purpose.

“Every report of the Committee to the eighteen International Conventions which have met during his chairmanship was carefully prepared by him. These reports indicate a rare comprehension of the whole Association movement as it has grown from year to year. Each report contains recommendations as to the activity of the Associations and their Committee. These in turn called forth from each Convention full instructions which have guided its Committee's work. The majority of these conventions he has attended, not only to present the Committee's report, but to exert always a wise and powerful influence in the discussions and deliberations of the delegates. This influence was strongest at times of crisis, when important principles were at stake, and favorable decisions were secured by the right word wisely uttered at the right time.

“Without underestimating the service of his associates, some of whom have gone to heavenly service and reward, and more of whom have rendered and are rendering invaluable cooperation in the work, it may be justly said of Mr. Brainerd that in the various ways already indicated, by faithful use of the written, printed, and spoken word, and of the living messenger, he has been brought in touch with the entire work in every part of the continent,—with the local Association and the varied problems connected with its development; with the State organization, its Committee, Secretary, and other agencies; with the International Convention, its organization and wide distribution of activity; and to all with whom he has come in contact in this great variety of ways he has been able to give a sense not only of his personal sympathy, but of his capacity to help by wisely chosen word and deed.

“This happy influence has been felt specially at the critical periods in the history of the Association movement, whether the time of crisis came, as already alluded to, on the floor of the Convention, or elsewhere in the development of erratic tenden-

cies by either individual or affiliated Associations. At all times he has demonstrated his capacity as a wise leader, equal to each emergency.

““ To exercise this influence and keep in touch with the whole movement has required on Mr. Brainerd's part a lavish expenditure of time and effort. Evening after evening, week after week, and year after year, he has patiently labored, for the most part in a quiet, unobtrusive way, but always effectively, to accomplish the vast work and service which he has performed, and the Associations are now a clearly defined institution with large property and an army of young men devoting their lives to the work, all upon the lines of that clear understanding of the organization and its distinctive purpose which he grasped in the beginning, and which he has promoted and advocated with patient skill and untiring endeavor until now it is universally accepted. This remarkable unsalaried service by one thoroughly qualified leader has been of incalculable benefit to the work for Christ among young men in our own and other lands.

““ As the international work has grown in extent and in the number of its departments, the Committee has wisely distributed the burden of supervision among its members. But Mr. Brainerd's original relation to each department has made his counsel indispensable to his associates and to the best development of the work, and they desire to close this record upon their minutes not only with an expression of profound regret in bidding farewell to their honored and beloved Chairman, but also with devout gratitude to God for this great gift of a competent leader during all these years in our blessed work for young men, and also with the earnest prayer that He will adequately reward and requite His faithful servant, as He alone can, at the close of a service so full of blessed usefulness. Crowned with this serene, divine blessing, may his last years be his best years !”

ROBERT R. MCBURNEY,

CLEVELAND H. DODGE,

RICHARD C. MORSE,

WILLIAM D. MURRAY,

General Secretary,

Committee.

New York, June 30, 1892.