

Now thank we all our God . . .

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS and THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE share with friends and Christian bodies everywhere the loss of our beloved leader John R. Mott. Sixty-five years of his consecrated life and Christian mission were closely linked with the Young Men's Christian Association. His purpose was to make Jesus Christ known, accepted, and revered among men everywhere.

Converted through the ministry of a Quaker YMCA Secretary, charter member of the Student YMCA at Upper Iowa College, President of the Cornell University Student Christian Association, he entered the Secretaryship in 1888. Until his retirement as General Secretary of the International Committee in 1931, Dr. Mott had no other vocation. A follower of Jesus Christ and unsurpassed leader of men, he lived by the text of his life, "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."

The powerful influence and contagious spirit of Dr. Mott were effective in inspiring all who came under his spell. For those of us who first came in contact with him when we were young men, we realize what a strong influence he exerted in our lives.

Besides his great contribution to the YMCA Movement in North America, Dr. Mott was chiefly responsible for the development of the World Service Work. Few other men have traveled so untiringly or made so many friends in all parts of the world. He was the greatest Christian statesman of his time. He extended our vision to the ends of the earth and deepened our sense of world mission. As Bishop Oxnam has said, "He thought in world terms. His ideas became institutions, such as the World Council of Churches, the International Missionary Council, and the World's Student Christian Federation. He was a member of the

Methodist Church but in truth he belonged to all churches. He was a man who counselled presidents and kings in the name of the King of Kings."

We rejoice that John R. Mott is claimed and acclaimed by so many Christian organizations who call him their founder, their leader, and their friend. This multiplying power was nowhere more evident than in his ability to select, inspire, and train leaders for the tasks of the Kingdom. The Young Men's Christian Association more than any other body has been blessed with the privilege of his leadership.

On February 25, 1955, the National Board took the initiative in arranging a joint memorial service of remembrance, thanksgiving, and rededication at Christ Church Methodist in New York City. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, minister of Christ Church, delivered the address of appreciation to the multitude of friends from many organizations with which Dr. Mott was intimately associated. We are pleased to include Dr. Sockman's message, "John R. Mott, Apostle of Jesus Christ," in this memorial folder.

Let us continue to labor, after the example of John R. Mott, in the spirit of Christ, "that they all may be one."

CLEVELAND E. DODGE,

Chairman, The International Committee