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Students Convention

at

Northfield.

F. B. Harvey

5/30 '93

Francis Baker Harvey. '93.

On the left bank of the Connecticut river, in the Northern part of Mass., and near the boundary lines of Vermont, and New Hampshire, stands Northfield one of New England's most beautiful towns. Its neat and substantial houses, separated from the street by well kept lawns, tell of comfort and prosperity. The hills sheltering it, gradually rising, stand out in the far distance as mountain peaks.

The home of the famous evang

elist, Mr. Moody and the place in which have been held the greatest students conventions, of which in our discourse we are about to speak, Northfield, for six years at least, has been in more than a single sense literally "a city set on a hill the light of which could not be hid".

The first students convention held near Northfield had its origin as follows: Mr. Moody in the year 1885, suggested to a number of Princeton students of whom was Mr. D. L. Wishard, that an effort be made to call together at his home as many young men's Christian Association secretaries as possible in order that in confer-

ence they might agree upon the very best methods of conducting the Associations, and to join with him in the study of the Bible. The suggestion received the highest approval. It, however occurred to Mr. Wishard that a greater, and more satisfactory result would be obtained, if, instead of inviting secretaries of the General Association, the invitation be limited to Secretaries of College Associations. After much persuasion Mr. Moody consented to the proposed conditions and in '86, through the strenuous efforts of Messrs. Wishard, Ober and others 200 students met at Mr. Hermon,

Mr. Wood's seminary for young  
men four miles distant from North  
field.

The efforts of these men were  
crowned with a success hardly  
anticipated; for out of this very  
conference grew the Student Mis-  
sionary movement of which of late  
so much has been heard and from  
which already have grown such  
remarkable results; out from it  
also come the great conferences  
held last year at Lake Geneva Wis.,  
Chautauque N. Y. in Great Brit-  
ain, in Scandinavia Japan, and  
Ceylon

From its inception until now

the movement has been rapid steady and unbroken. Last year the number of delegates had increased from 200 to 500. Fifteen years ago the intercollegiate Association was formed; including less than 1000 students in 21 institutions. Today it has increased to 4000 associations with a membership of over 22,000. Who will say that this increase is not largely due to the movement set on foot by Mr. Moody?

After the first year, on account of better accommodation, the convention was held in the Moody Female Seminary buildings at North.

field.

Here, on the record of last July, came, from all sections of this country, from Canada, from Nova Scotia, from England, from Scotland and from Africa, men representing 130 institutions of learning; first, that they might come into close touch with each other and with Christ and, second that they might devise some method to stimulate the 75,000 Christian young men of our colleges to win the 80,000 who are not Christians.

It was a noble gathering, young men! Christian intellectual picked young men! No wonder that

God's cause advances in colleges  
and through them in the world  
when such a band of young men  
concentrate their prayers for the  
blessing of the Lord upon themselves  
and upon the work they fair would  
do for Him.

To these men were presented the  
most interesting and vital problems  
which arise in college work, while  
in prayerful consultation means  
were suggested for their solution.

They received spiritual instruc-  
tion from such men as Dr. A. J. Gor-  
don of Boston, Dr. Arthur T. Pearson of  
Philadelphia, who now fills the pul-  
pit recently made vacant by the

death of the late, lauded *Spru-*  
*gon*. In addition, the great need  
of Christian work in the large  
cities was clearly shown by Mr.  
Schaufly of N. Y. city and by Au-  
thony Constock, secretary and  
chief special agent of the N. Y. so-  
ciety for the prevention of vice.  
Emphasis also was laid on Bi-  
ble study not only for intellectual  
improvement but for devotionals as  
well. In the Bible Training classes  
no more excellent work was done  
under the leadership of men like  
Messrs. W. C. Conaughy and Spear, while  
Bishop W. J. Thoburn and Mr. With-  
ord made clear the necessity of

Christian workers in foreign fields

Just here let me say that to those who have attended a Northfield meeting there is no spot on those grounds so impressive as the little knoll just back of Mr. Woodip's residence, commanding as it does a picturesque view of the Connecticut as it flows down from the mountains through a valley rich in its meadows of waving grain. Here at the sunset hour of each clear day, came a company of men to consider the needs of those in heathen lands; and as returned missionaries told of the wonderful amount of work still to be done

the injunction of Christ to his  
disciple "go and teach all na-  
tions" came with such renewed  
stress that no many as 24 men  
this year offered themselves to him  
for work in foreign fields, mak-  
ing the entire number of vol-  
unteers present at the convention  
one hundred

With such influences about  
them, how could these men go  
back to their respective colleges  
other than blessed and to bless!

As we think of this convention  
- of the character of the men  
who organized the movement;  
of the methods, zeal and purpose

of the men who attend from year  
to year; the eminent men who  
are helping to forward this work  
by their intelligence, time and <sup>means</sup>.  
I say as we think of these things  
we are constrained to believe it  
was according to God's will, and  
but another of the many means  
He is using to bring about the  
day spoken of by the prophet when  
the wolf also shall dwell with  
the lamb and the leopard shall  
lie down with the kid and the calf  
and the young lion together  
and a little child shall lead  
them.

1893 Senior Oration of Francis Baker Harvey, Class of 1893

Transcribed by Krista Gray, September 2008

Edited by Meg MacAvoy, September 2008

### Students Convention at Northfield

On the left bank of the Connecticut river, in the Northern part of Mass., and near the boundary lines of Vermont and of New Hampshire, stands Northfield one of New Englands most beautiful towns. Its neat and substantial houses, separated from the street by well kept lawns, tell of comfort and prosperity. The hills sheltering it gradually, rising, stand out in the far distance as mountain peaks

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God's cause advances in college and through them in the world when such a band of young men concentrate their prayers for the blessing of the Lord upon themselves and upon the work they fain would do for Him.

To these men were presented the most interesting and vital problems which arise in college work, while in prayerful consultation means were suggested for their solution.

They received spiritual instruction from such men as S. A. J. Gerdon of Boston, Dr. Arthur T Pierson of Philadelphia, who now fills the pulpit recently made vacant by the

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the injunction of Christ to his disciples "Go and teach all nations" came with such renewed stress that so many as 24 men this year offered themselves to Him for work in foreign fields, making the entire number of volunteers present at the convention one hundred

With such influences about them, how could these men go back to their respective colleges other than blessed and to bless!

As we think of this convention – of the character of the men who organized the movement; of the methods zeal and purpose

of the men who attend from year to year; the eminent men who are helping to forward this work by their intelligence, time and means.-- I say as we think of these things we are constrained to believe it was according to God's will and but another of the many means He is using to bring about the day spoken of by the prophet when, "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid and the calf and the young lion together and a little child shall lead them.