

# IOWA YOUNG MEN.

CONTINUING IOWA STATE NOTES.

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## A Remarkable Movement.

It can not at this time be denied that the Young Men's Christian Association is a remarkable movement. Only a few months ago it was only 55 years old. In this brief half century of its existence this organization has belted the globe. Thousands of young men have been saved through its work and its buildings, costly and complete are to be found in all the large cities of the world and new ones are constantly being added in the smaller places.

During the past year one building has gone up for every ten days of time.

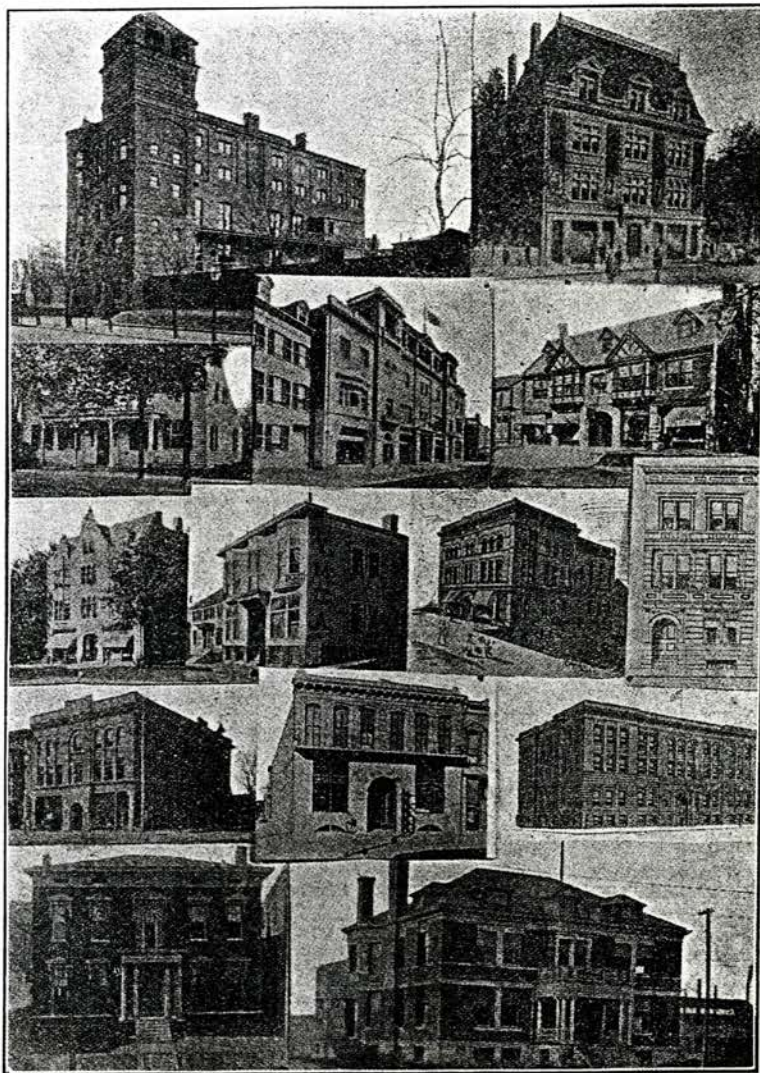
Iowa is not laggard in doing her share of this work. Already eleven fine large buildings have been erected. Two of these, at Waterloo and Keokuk, have just been erected and dedicated without debt. Oskaloosa, Davenport and Boone are looking forward to the erection of homes for the Association.

A movement moving with such rapidity necessarily creates the impression that had there not been a special sphere of action which it was peculiarly fitted to occupy, it never could have attained its present position of prominence, prosperity and influence.

Indeed the existence of the Association justifies itself. In 1800 there were six cities in the U. S. that had a population of 8,000 and upwards. In 1890 there were 437. Everywhere the drift of population is from country to city. In 1790 one thirtieth of the population of the U. S. lived in cities of 8000 inhabitants and over, in 1880 nearly one fourth lived in cities of this size. In the cities the number of young men is disproportionately large. In many cities of 15,000, from 4000 to 5000 are young men, between the ages of 18 to 30. These young men of our cities are very numerous homeless young men. In many instances they have no intercourse with the people where they room beyond a nod of the head from time to time.

Men are gregarious and like bees, will die if you separate them from their kind. They must have companionship and have it they will, but where? At the saloon, in the gambling hell or brothel unless some other place is provided. The Association provides this

## City and Town Association Buildings Opened in 1899.



Washington, D. C.  
Warwick, N. Y.  
Passaic, N. J.  
Newark, O.  
Memphis, Tenn.

Salem, Mass.  
Manchester, N. H.  
Waterloo, Ia.  
Sacramento, Cal.

Montclair, N. J.  
Bristol, R. I.  
Leavenworth, Kan.  
Keokuk, Ia.  
Lorain, O.

(From a Collection by "MEN.")

place. With its well stocked reading room, its well equipped gymnasium, with a competent instructor in charge, its game room furnished with interesting and harmless games, and its social rooms where man meets man and enjoys a few minutes of social life, this organization is well adapted to combat the forces of evil that surround young men everywhere. Since its great pur-

pose everywhere is to keep men from evil and to win them to be Christian gentlemen, industrious workmen, good citizens and since its committees, buildings, officers, department and members have no other aim should not the church love this offspring of her spirit life and say with pride: "Behold the child of our warmest affection and our highest admiration?"