

Resolutions  
of the  
Y.M.C.A. on the  
Death of  
Abraham Lincoln  
April 1865

*Alfred W. D.*

(1)

## Letter from the Montreal Association

At a meeting of the Montreal Young Men's Christian Association, held the 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1865, it was unanimously resolved, by a standing vote, to send an address to the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States, sympathizing with them in the present afflictive circumstances of their nation.

To the Young Men's Christian Association, New York, U.S.:  
Beloved Brethren:

We are prompted by feelings of warm affection and deep sympathy to address words of condolence to you at this time of your nation's sadness & sorrow.

Your land is this day full of mourning and lamentation, for the hand of the Lord has been laid heavily upon you. One to whom all eyes have been turned for more than four years, as holding in his hands, under God, the destinies of your nation and the welfare of millions, has suddenly fallen, not crushed down by the accumulated cares, anxieties and arduous duties of his high position as Chief Ruler of a mighty nation, but stricken down by the cruel hand of a brutal assassin.

At the time we write millions are assembling in earth's temples on this solemn funeral day, to drip the mourners' tear, to pour forth their humble confessions, earnest supplications, tender blessings, and fervent prayers to the All-Sufficient God, that in the day of their nation's calamity, He would be merciful unto them.

Let us though dwelling in another land, and belonging to another nation, drop a sympathetic tear with you who mourn the loss of your great & good President, Abraham Lincoln! Your loss we feel is, to no small extent, our own loss and that of the world at large.

As we think of the heart-stricken widow, and the unutterable grief of the fatherless, our prayers ascend on their behalf, that the God of grace may plentifully pour the balm of consolation into their hearts, and as we think of you as a people, so long afflicted with the terrible scourge of war, you who just as the dreadful slaughter of the battle-field was disappearing, before the extended olive branch of peace, just as the shrill blast of the trumpet of war was giving place to sweet songs of rejoicing, have been suddenly plunged into the depth of grief, your cup of joy dashed to the ground, your songs of triumph interrupted by tears, lamentations & wailing. We would wish you draw nigh to the throne of grace, that by the power & mercy of God, your nation's loss may yet become the nation's gain, through the inestimable blessings of freedom, peace, and well ordered Government, being more firmly established and more fully enjoyed.

And shall your bereaved nation lift up its ~~cries~~<sup>cries</sup> in vain? Shall the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ not regard our united supplications? As the Lord liveth, He will surely hear, and this night of grief and tears and mourning shall be turned into light, and joy and thanksgiving.

The wicked reign and riot, Satan rages but saints may rejoice, for the Lord reigneth. Let the hearts of the mourners be comforted with the thought that God doth all things well; that He is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works, and that the time of a nation's chastisement is but the seed-time for a rich harvest that shall surely be gathered in God's own good time. Let now, then, faint in the day of adversity, but be of good courage and strengthen your hearts in the Lord. Systems of evil change and perish, but truth and right are immutable. Honored workmen and brave

~~Christian~~ Captains  
 fall, but work for God's glory and man's  
 happiness yet remains to be done.

As a Young Men's Christian Association  
 seek to fulfil the sacred work to which you have  
 been called by showing forth "the truth as it is in  
 Jesus."

With assurances of sincere esteem and  
 deep fervent sympathy, I remain,

Dear Brethren

Yours in the bonds of Christian love

Chas. R. Black, Vice-Pres

James Stuart, Cor. Secy.

Fras. G. Grafton - Treasurer

Chas. P. Watson,

Montreal Y.M.C.A. Rooms.  
 (April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1868.)

Letter from the  
Montreal Association  
Y.M.C.A.

April 19 1865

Y.M.C.A.  
Appendix

Resolutions of the Young Men's  
Christian Association of New York

Whereas God in this Providence  
has removed from this earth Abraham  
Lincoln the President of the United  
States, a man simple in habits  
& childlike in humor, full of intercourse,  
earnest in purpose  
meek in spirit, pure in heart,  
illustrious in deeds, and Christian  
in all his ways  
<sup>and whereas God has likewise permitted to be</sup>  
~~stricken down our chief Counsellor of State.~~

Resolved That we bow to His high  
purpose in perfect faith, knowing  
that Our Heavenly Father doeth  
all things well & that we  
mourn for the good man who  
has gone before, as children  
mourn for their father <sup>that we</sup>  
offer our fervent prayers for the recovery  
~~of our Secy of State~~  
Resolved <sup>assault to</sup> that we recognize in  
these ~~accusations~~ of his death the  
familiar hand of that system  
of assassination which for ~~so~~  
<sup>eighty</sup> years has embittered the coun-  
cils of our country, stricken  
down senators in ~~the senate~~  
~~chamber~~ <sup>Congress</sup>, repressed free speech,  
bought & sold & whipped the labor-  
ing class, starved to death prisoners

of war and deluged a nation in blood, and that we will never rest till that sum of all villanies is extirpated in the land.

Resolved that we humble ourselves in contrition for the assent by us given in times past to this system of sin and devoutly promise for the future a more perfect conformity to that ~~feature~~ freedom wherewith Christ has made us free.

Resolved that in the succession to the Presidency of ~~to~~ the late Vice President, a man of the people, who ~~he~~ has suffered deeply by this rebellion we see the hand of a just God & we offer our prayers that the Ruler of nations will give him grace wisdom & firmness of purpose to fulfil aright the duties of his exalted office.

Resolved that when we reflect  
that this act, by which a nation  
is thrown into mourning, & a  
government threatened with  
~~confusion was effected~~  
~~was effected through the instrumentality~~  
~~consummated by young men~~  
~~effected through the instrumentality of young men~~  
we profoundly feel the necessity  
for a more united and earnest  
effort on the part of our associa-  
tions, & the religious community  
to care for the morals & habits  
of the young men of America.

Resolutions offered

before the Young Men  
Ch Ass Apl 17. /65-

2 copies  
Engrossed.

*Appendix Ramsley*

New York

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Resolutions of the Young Men's  
Christian Association of New York adopted  
at a meeting of the Association held at the rooms, April the 1865.

Whereas God, in his Providence has removed from this earth Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, a man simple and childlike, truthful in intercourse, earnest in purpose, meek in spirit, pure in heart, illustrious in deeds, and Christian in all his ways, and whereas God has likewise permitted to be stricken down our chief Counsellor of state,

Resolved, that we bow to this high purpose in perfect faith, knowing that Our Heavenly Father doeth all things well and that we mourn for the good man, who has gone before, as children mourn for their father, and that we offer our fervent prayers for the recovery of our Secretary of State.

Resolved, that we recognize in these assaults the familiar hand of that system of assassination which for eighty years has embittered the Councils of our Country, stricken down senators in Congress, repressed free speech, bought and sold and whipped the laboring class, starved to death prisoners of war and deluged a nation in blood, and that we will never rest till that sum of all villainies is extirpated in the land.

Resolved, that we humble ourselves on contrition for the assent by us, given, in times past, to this system of sin and devoutly promise for the future a more perfect conformity to that freedom wherewith Christ has made us free-

Resolved, that in the succession to the the Presidency of the late Vice President, a man of the

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people, who has suffered deeply by this rebellion we  
see the hand of a just God and we offer our  
prayers that the Ruler of nations will give him  
grace, wisdom and firmness of purpose to fulfil  
right the duties of his exalted office.

Resolved, that when we reflect that this act, by  
which a nation is ~~taken~~ thrown into mourning,  
and government threatened with confusion, was  
effected through the instrumentality of young  
men, we profoundly feel the necessity for a more  
united and earnest effort on the part of our  
Associations to care for the morals and habits  
of the young men of America.

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*Appendix*

Correspondence

Young Men's Christian Association.  
44 Fenwick Street.

Liverpool 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1865

Dear Brothers,

I have the sad privilege of handing you the enclosed Resolutions, referring to the horrid murder of your late beloved President, and you will kindly lay them before your Association. No event has caused such intense excitement in this country, and the heart of the nation shuddered at the news, from one extremity of the kingdom to the other. That one so honest, good, and noble, noble not by birth, but in the highest sense of the word, while at his post, and just after speaking words of peace and kindness towards his enemies, should have been struck down by a cowardly assassin, a fanatic, whose name will be execrated through all time, and whose grand will be with Cain and Sudas. Oscarist Words can not express the sorrow and indignation that have filled all hearts in this country, from the Queen to the meanest of her subjects, and it has given great satisfaction here that our beloved Sovereign has specially written to Mr. Lincoln. Assuring you of my heartfelt sympathy,

I remain  
Yours fraternally  
Wm H. Stewart  
Hon Sec.

To the Secretaries of the  
Y.M.C Association  
New York.

Follow with my copy (on same page)

*Appendix*

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## Report of the Boarding House Committee,

While this committee has not done all that might have been done, yet it has done enough to prove to itself, and to all who have been at all conversant with its affairs, that great good can be accomplished in the department for which this committee was at first created.—

During the year, a large number of boarding houses has been added to the lists which was already quite large.

While the committee have aimed to procure for, and place upon the lists good boarding houses located in every ~~part~~ section of the City, and ranging in price and accommodations to suit every class seeking a good home, they have also carefully avoided placing <sup>of</sup> any on the lists without good and substantial references.

These lists have been kept open at the rooms of the association for the daily inspection of all who might be seeking good boarding houses; ~~and houses~~; and very many, during the year, have been assisted by means of this department in obtaining good and comfortable houses.

The committee respectfully recommend that the Association continue to take a

lively interest in this department of its usefulness.

First of all should we see that the young men, who come to this great City, strangers and away from home influences, are provided with proper homes here and surrounded by proper influences, for without these we shall hardly keep them from falling prey to evil companions and corrupting influences that will allure them on every side.

Jonathan Marshall,  
Chairman.

Resolutions  
of the  
Y.M.C.A. on the  
Death of Abraham  
Lincoln - President U.S.  
April - 1865.

Young Men's Christian Association.  
44 Renahaw Street.

Liverpool 29<sup>th</sup> April 1865

At a meeting of the members of the Young Men's Christian Association of Liverpool, held on Saturday Evening, 29<sup>th</sup> April 1865, the following Resolutions were passed unanimously:-

Resolved, - That the members of the Liverpool Young Men's Christian Association desire to express to their brethren of the kindred Associations in the United States their utter detestation and horror at the cowardly assassination of President Lincoln; and to sympathise and condole with them in their national bereavement.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolution be signed on behalf of the members by the President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Management and Secretaries and forwarded to the New York Association for diffusion among the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States, and for presentation at their next annual Convention. Signed accordingly

Robert W. Forrest Incumbent of St Andrews  
President

John Patterson Treasurer

John Garrison, Chairman of board.

Felician H. Sherratt Honorary Secy.

John Dunnning Secretary.

Mark  
Merritt