

# The International Missionary Union.

Annual Meeting: Week Beginning Second Wednesday Evening in June,  
Clifton-Springs, New-York.

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>PRESIDENT,</b><br/>J. T. Gracey, D.D.,<br/>Rochester, N. Y.</p>                                  | <p><b>SECRETARY,</b><br/>Rev. W. H. Braden,<br/>Clifton-Springs, N. Y.</p>       | <p><b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,</b><br/>Chairman, Rev. J. A. Davis,<br/>Hempstead, N. Y.</p> |  |
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|  | <p><b>TREASURER,</b><br/>James Mudge, D.D.</p>                                   | <p><b>LIBRARIAN,</b><br/>C. C. Thayer, M.D.</p>   |  |

This is to be the first of a series of papers and documents to be prepared for the annual meeting.

I am two or three days in arrears.

Dear Belden

The order of the Presidents

is Hamlin Baldwin Bixley Douglas  
 Wright - I did not pay attention  
 enough to that nominating Com:  
 He must make a Chairman  
 of it hereafter who will have  
 had some influence or will  
 come to some of us to ask  
 whether they are covering all  
 cases & points. There are 5 Meth  
 H. A. B. C. H. Presb - an only 2  
 Baptists - and one of them a  
 dead head never at our meeting  
 and technically not a member

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The Union, a purely Complimentary appointment. I know it is not easy to get Baptist men, and if the attendance of M. S. men this year is any guide it looks a little as if they were to be reduced to the attendance of those who are made officers. Still several were intending to come, and others, strong men too, did not come because of the program! Under the

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Old Syllabus Scheme they  
would have come, and we  
would have utilized them  
but when their fields or  
specialties were put down  
for days they could not be  
there. They gave up —  
That is the other side  
of the program — I doubt if  
it is, — no, — I ask the question  
whether we shall send out  
the programs to the Missions  
in advance another year

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It is easier to run the machine with a general program, if held loosely in hand, about as this year, but I doubt if any plan or scheme can be settled more than one year at a time - Certainly when that Ex. Com: was called together, they were sensitive at the fact that they had little to do, if the work was to be considered as all having been rigidly done. That too is on the other side, or vs program.

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and yet personally I still think  
the determination of a general  
class of subjects for a session  
is helpful. certainly to easier  
to run - may be flatter too  
after a little use of it -

I do not believe that there is  
any theoretical way to keep  
up the live fresh interest.  
I have always tried to  
guide it by the #mercury  
of suggestion from other  
people; and merely acting  
as a sort of umpire; and I

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Know our strength is in  
picking up these suggestions.  
Hence I try to remember  
all that come to me and  
weigh them as best I can.  
Thus the suggestion of  
reversing the order of  
discussions first and  
platform after, came from  
members themselves.  
They said the discussion  
showed them what the  
people wanted to know  
about, and primed them

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thoughts & topics, and prepared  
the ~~passer~~ mind of the  
audience to appreciate  
what they had to say -  
I do not think there is  
much choice, ~~but~~ if any,  
but I pass<sup>ed</sup> on the suggestion,  
if indeed, we shall make  
up the program on  
that underlying base  
another year. That is too  
far ahead to determine  
definitely now -  
Besides, as the Constitution

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says the President must  
make the Programme,  
after consultation with  
the Ex. Com: - if we are to  
print it and be held  
to it as anything but  
merely tentative, then  
comes the question of  
how to consult them  
in advance of the Meeting.  
Two or three of us can  
make a suggested  
program, subject to their

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advice when together, but how  
can we get that consultation  
worth anything before hand.  
As the duty devolves on me  
of making the program, I  
must try to find some  
wider reach to get their  
ideas, and when they give  
them, must try to give them  
due weight - that accounts  
for my suggestion that  
we weigh Davis' original  
proposition, how far we  
can give the missionaries

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of a country, the power to  
select topics & for discussion  
as well as platform. ~~All~~

The wisdom I want is to  
draw out the ideas of all  
the folks, and try to see  
how to submit them all  
to some practical test.

The organization is too  
inherently weak, necessarily  
Constitutionally, and by  
Providential circumstances  
of changing constituency  
and control, to live three

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years, except by guiding out  
what people think, and  
what they think pays.

The Pres. cannot run it,  
nor the Ex. Com. nor  
both together, on any  
other basis, than that.  
It is not what I think  
good, nor desirable, that I  
care for. It is only what  
experience, and judgment  
formed on the latest experience,  
shows the missionaries to want  
that I care for. It does not pay me in any way  
for what I do. I only live to serve missionaries.

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And now as to sending  
Circulars abroad - I have  
no wish, no judgment as  
to what to do another year.  
It costs too much in work  
and money unless there <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~  
good results. We got  
1. ~~The~~ suggestions of the  
thoughts of those on the fields.  
showing what they consider  
of interest in the missionary  
world, by sending the Blanks  
too, wh: cost nothing but  
the printing - not 50¢ wh:  
no postage & wh: -

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2. We increased the chance  
of missionaries on the  
field, coming home late,  
to get to the meeting &  
put it into their thought  
for other years. & made  
them feel they were one  
with us & love one with  
them -

But whether it pays to do  
so another year. I want others  
to judge. Dr. Foster suggests  
that instead of withdrawing  
we advance and send  
Circular to every missionary in

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The world - not only Americans,  
I would not suggest that  
much work, to anybody  
whom we could get to do it -  
even if it did not take  
money which we ought  
to spend judiciously if not  
sparingly -

You see how weak brained  
I have become that I  
attenuate thusly -

Your - n  
Gracey

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J. T. GRACEY, Associate Editor,

ROCHESTER, N. Y.



Rev. H. H. Belden  
Clifton Springs  
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