

The Boys' Brigade.

FIRST YEAR, 1883-84.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE was *instituted in 1883* by W. A. Smith, J. R. Hill and J. B. Hill, who formed a Company of Boys, under this designation, in the North Woodside Mission Sunday School of the Free College Church, Glasgow (Rev. George Reith, D.D.). Mr. Smith acted as Captain, and the brothers Hill as Lieutenants.

A *Constitution* was drawn up, which set forth the Object of the Brigade as being "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of reverence, discipline, self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."

It further stated that "all Boys between the ages of 12 and 17 will be eligible for members of the Brigade, and in applying for their Membership Cards they shall fill up a form of application, agreeing to comply with the Rules of the Brigade, and expressing a desire to be true to Christ in their lives, and to help other Boys to be so."

"Strict discipline shall be enforced, and all members must submit to the authority of the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers placed over them."

The *First Meeting* took place on Thursday, *4th October, 1883*, in the Mission Hall, at 329 North Woodside Road, and the meetings thereafter took place weekly on Thursday evenings, at eight o'clock.

During the first three nights 59 Boys enrolled. Strict discipline was at once introduced. No Boy was allowed to fall-in if a single minute late, and no one was allowed to miss two consecutive drills without a good and satisfactory reason. Prompt, cheerful obedience to all orders was made a *sine qua non*. This strictness soon had the effect of reducing the number considerably, and when the Boys got the Forms of Application to fill up in November, 35 Boys accepted the conditions of membership and received Membership Cards.

An *Examination for Promotion* to Non-Commissioned rank was held in December. First, a Practical Examination in Drill, open to all Boys over 14, then a Written Examination open to the best 12 Boys in the Practical. The highest 6 Boys in the Written Examination were then promoted according to order of merit, so many marks being allowed for conduct and general suitability. The promotions were as per Inspection Muster Roll given on next page.

The *First Annual Inspection* was held in the Mission Hall on 25th March, 1884, when the Brigade was inspected by Captain H. A. Ker, 1st Lanarkshire R.V., and the following was the Muster Roll:—

Captain WM. A. SMITH.	Private GEORGE HAMILTON.
Lieut. JAMES R. HILL.	„ WM. H. HENDRY.
Lieut. JOHN B. HILL.	„ PATRICK KINNEY.
Sergt. WM. H. WYLIE.	„ JOHN MURRAY.
Sergt. GEORGE MILL.	„ ROBT. T. RANDELL.
Corpl. JOHN R. JARVIE.	„ JOHN S. SMALL.
Corpl. JOHN TENNANT.	„ WM. H. SMITH.
L.-Corpl. ROBERT PATERSON.	„ WM. STEWART.
L.-Corpl. ALEX. DOWIE.	„ WM. TASSIE.
Private HUGH BAIRD.	„ WM. TUNNA.
„ ERNEST W. DENNEY.	„ JAMES T. WALKER.
„ ALEX. FRASER.	„ SAMUEL WATSON.
„ GEORGE FULTON.	„ JAMES WRIGHT.
„ CARL GILLIE.	

At this Inspection the Boys wore neither caps nor belts, the only attempt at uniform being a small red rosette pinned on the lapel of the coat. Although there was no band, and no arms were carried, the Inspection produced a very favourable impression on the large number of friends who witnessed it, and the Inspecting Officer was able to give a very favourable report.

The *First Annual Soiree* was held a week later, and was attended by all the members who were present at the Inspection.

