Summary Information

Creator: George N. Burleigh, 1868-[19??]
Title: George N. Burleigh Papers, 1888
Dates: 1888
Abstract: The diary of New York City Christian Missionary George Burleigh over the course of a year working in Cape Town, South Africa.
Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu
Administrative Information
Provenance: Purchased in February, 2011 by director of the Burke Library, John Weaver.
Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
Preferred Citation: Item description, George N. Burleigh Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography
George N. Burleigh was a New York City resident who served as a Christian Missionary in Cape Town, South Africa. Burleigh was in a party of other missionaries who first sailed from New York to Cape Town in May 1887, arriving July 1887. Burleigh lived on 5 Scott Street in Cape Town. The majority of Burleigh’s work was through the sale of religious tracts and magazines.

Sources:

Collection Scope and Content Note
The collection includes the handwritten 1888 diary of Missionary George N. Burleigh detailing his work in South Africa. The 230-page journal includes entries for every day of one-year, detailing Burleigh’s encounters and surroundings, including opinions on the state of religion, comparative religions and “the souls of the African people.” Burleigh turned twenty during the year the diary was written.

The journal provides insights into conditions and conversations among the following religious groups: Roman Catholics, Seventh Day Adventists, Jews, Muslims, The Salvation Army, South African Methodists, and indigenous Khoikhoi (‘Hottentot’) religions. The journal makes frequent comparisons to New York culture in comparison to South African habit of life, for example, occupational and commercial activities, modes of entertainment (long excurses on smoking, drinking, and dancing), and gender relations.

Processing
Diary was wrapped in acid-free tissue paper and placed in a box.
## Contents list

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