

The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,  
Columbia University in the City of New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 10

Finding Aid for

**New York Sabbath Committee Minutes, 1857-1878**



Cover image. Credit to: MRL10: New York Sabbath Committee Minutes, box 1, folder 1, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, November 2015  
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**Summary Information**

Creator: New York Sabbath Committee  
Title: New York Sabbath Committee Minutes  
Dates: 1857-1878  
Abstract: Minute book of the New York Sabbath Committee from April 1857 to 1878. Also contains an index, list of donors and their residences.  
Size: 1 boxes, 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](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

**Administrative Information**

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto: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, MRL10: New York Sabbath Committee Minutes, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

**History**

Citizens were becoming increasingly alarmed at the failure to neglect and forget about the "Sabbath Day." This group of people believed that with the increased number of immigrants to the city, it was being outstripped in its capacity to meet the needs of a moral and religious culture. Government and the law was also not working towards the continued reverence of the Sabbath. It was believed that, "The Sabbath became in many quarters... the gala-day of the godless; the harvest-day of avarice; the high-day of vice and crime."

The first meeting of the New York Sabbath Committee took place on April 1, 1857. The group consisted of a number of leading Christians. The Committee consisted of about twenty members connected with eight Christian denominations.

The group did not have grand plans to undertake extreme measures in society. Their primary goal was to remind the citizens of the importance of the Sabbath Day. They would do this via the pulpit, the press, and personal influence. Notable members include Philip Schaff.

The organization continued until at least the 1930's.

**Sources:**

"First five years of the Sabbath reform, 1857-62," New York Sabbath Committee, New York: 1862.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains one bound volume of minutes from 1857-1878. It also includes information on donors and their addresses.

**Processing**

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

**Further Sources**

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign appears to hold a microfilm copy of this exact volume. For more information, see [this link](#).

The Burke Library offers the papers of Philip Schaff, secretary of the organization in the 1860s. The finding aid for his collection is available [online here](#).

**Contents list**

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Minutes of the New York Sabbath Committee, commencing April 1, 1857