

"council, if they thought proper to do so. They also had the "right to interpose in bringing about a Peace." The "Women's Rights" question was certainly a very extraordinary feature in a government organized on a war principle, and among a people who lay all the burden of seed time and harvest upon the women and children, and yet it was so.

And perhaps it is a curious historical coincidence, that in this record year (1898) of Prohibition and Anti-Prohibition, I am able to read to you upon this occasion, as an illustration of the last authorities quoted, a copy of the first woman's petition, asking for prohibition, ever made in America, and I think I am safe in saying, in the world, dated from "Burlington, 22nd May, 1802":

"TEMPERANCE PETITION PRESENTED TO JOSEPH BRANT.

"Burlington, May 22nd, 1802.

"On that day the women of the Six Nations assembled together in council to which they called the chiefs. They were addressed as follows :

"UNCLES,—Some time ago the women of this place spoke to you, but you did not make them an answer, as you considered their meeting insufficient. Now a considerable number of those from below (Caughnawana, near Montreal) have met and consulted together—join in sentiment and lament, as if it were with tears in our eyes—the many misfortunes caused by the use of spirituous liquors. We therefore mutually request that you will use your endeavors to have it removed from our neighborhood, that there may be none sold nigher to us than the mountain (the Heights). We flatter ourselves that this is in your power, and that you will have compassion on our uneasiness and exert yourselves to have it done."

(Strings of Wampum).

The chiefs adjourning for a short time for consultation, they returned, and Captain Joseph Brant delivered the following reply:

"NIECES,—We are fully convinced of the justice of your complaint ; drinking has caused the many misfortunes of this place and has been, besides, a great cause of the many divisions, by the effect it has upon the people's speech. We assure you, therefore, that we will use our endeavors to effect what