

Hitherto the Association has maintained a night school, on two evenings in every week, for the secular instruction of men in the Central Prison. Arrangements are now being made for extending the usefulness of the school, by holding it under new auspices, for four evenings instead of two in every week.

On our invitation the National Prison Association, which usually meets in one of the cities of the United States, held its annual convention in this city. The cost was defrayed by grants from the Ontario Government and the City Council. The public reception took place in the Pavilion, in the Horticultural Gardens, and the Hon. G. W. Ross, the Minister of Education, kindly granted the use of the theatre in the Normal School for the regular work of the Convention. Many men, distinguished in the United States for their philanthropy in this connection, took part in the proceedings. Several of our own citizens also read papers and gave addresses. The subject was mentioned in many of the city pulpits, and the Bishop of Huron preached an eloquent sermon before the Convention in St. James' Cathedral. The meetings, which lasted for one week, were well attended, and very great interest was manifested in the subjects that were discussed. The question relating to our criminal classes, affecting as it does the social life of modern society, influencing us both morally and economically, is of the greatest possible interest to every one. The free discussion which has taken place can scarcely fail in being productive of good results. It is now seen that the interests of the convicted criminal and the interests of society are practically the same, and the efforts to effect a reformation of offenders has now become an acknowledged duty. It is the intention of the National Prison Association to publish a full report of the proceedings, which we commend to the thoughtful perusal of all who desire to bring into the full light of day the errors of our so-called "systems," and induce such legislation as will tend to prevent and mitigate the evil.

Every year affords additional proof of the usefulness of our own Association. The records of the Society contain many instances of permanent and abiding work. While help is refused to none, the greatest care is used to avoid the deception to which this charity is peculiarly liable. We seek to lift up the fallen, to strengthen the weak, and to turn the steps of those who are treading the downward