

Provincial W. C. T. Union, or the gathering together in one strong working army the various flourishing Unions already in existence in the Province.

The proposed Conference was called in the month of October, 1877, at the begining of our third official year, and after much thought and prayer a Provincial Union was organized. Apart from the formation of this representative Union the Conference was productive of much good, its tendency being to create and foster a healthy temperance sentiment among our mothers and daughters.

We cannot call attention to our work during the year, as a local Union, without giving thanks for the Divine Aid and guidance, that, amid very discouraging circumstances—the absence for a number of months of our President, the resignation of two of our Secy's, and the illness of a third—has assisted us to perform much real and arduous work for a suffering humanity, enslaved by the appetite for strong drink.

The newly organized Provincial Union had decided that a petition from the temperance women of Ontario, should be presented to the Senate at Ottawa early in January, praying for amendments to the Bill known as the "Dunkin Act," of 1864. The work of securing signatures to the petition was heartily undertaken, several hundred being sent from our city. However, owing to some defect or oversight in the arrangements of the executive committee of the Prov. Union, the petition, with the signatures of more than 30,000 women attached, was not presented to our Senators. Nevertheless, strong cries, and tears from anguished, broken hearts had ascended up to God, the Great Ruler, and as a result of these pleadings, we believe our Statute Book records the "Scott Act" of 1878.

Early in the year, Cottage Prayer Meetings among the families of laboring men were commenced; but after a short period, the attempt was discontinued, as it was frequently impossible for these destitute women to go even to the house of a neighbor on account of the lack of clothing. Some other plan must be adopted.

As the opening of a coffee and reading room for the lower classes of reformed men had long been a favorite project with our ladies, and as a small sum was on hand from last year for that purpose, it was thought well to attempt to increase this sum, if possible, by a sale of plain and fancy work. From this sale only about \$50 was realized. As, though a few of our members entered with zest and spirit into the enterprise, many were hindered by uncontrollable circumstances from rendering any assistance. A well appointed coffee room, with reading room attached, comfortably warmed and lighted, is one of the most successful methods of keeping our laboring men from frequenting the saloon and bar-room; and when we consider how the efforts of our sisters, in this direction, in the neighboring republic and in the old