

abiding lives of our citizens. We freely invite you to make the most of your time among us; and from whatever part of our Dominion you may have come, we lay no restraint on you beyond your duty here, save what we know to be absolutely needful to protect you from the seductive influences of certain weaknesses which we fear few, if any of you, have been able to leave behind you at home, namely, regular daily recurring inclinations to appetite and rest (laughter); and in this regard we leave you wholly in the hands of the fair ministering spirits in the respective homes into which you have been received. (Applause.) They can make their own conditions with you (laughter), which if duly honoured on your part, you may confidently count on both a plate and a pillow as necessity may crave. (Applause.) Had you come to us on a sculling match (laughter), the loyers of the oar would have met you and done all the honours. Had you come on some municipal business, our twice honoured Mayor and worthy councillors would have been ready with all the taste and wisdom of this age of refinement and progress to do all the courtesies of entertainment. Had you come on behalf of the legal fraternity, our Q. C.'s and J. P.'s would have claimed the right of making all the arrangements necessary for your comfort—of exactly defining your duties here, and of fixing the hour of your committal to business, and the time which the necessity of your weaknesses might claim for you enlargement. (Loud laughter.) Had you come in the interest of some secret organization, "Right Worshipful Grand Masters," "Worthy Chiefs," and "Marshals"—all grand and dazzling in regalia—would have marched you into some lodge room, and there, under guard, have kept you all to themselves. Had you come on the agitated crest of some electioneering wave, you would have had M. P.'s and M. P.'s expectant, and men who understand protection and men who don't (laughter), striving with one another to show you favour. But we rejoice that you have not come to us in any of these ways; and whatever may be your leanings at home—whatever interest you may take in the oar, the bench, or the bar; whether weak or strong on the side of regalia; whether you have a "National Policy" or no policy at all—(laughter)—you have not come here to tell us, and we are not here to ask. You come as Christians—as Christian workers—and we are refreshed to see so many of you in our midst. (Applause). Bringing your Bibles in your hands, you have laid siege to the citadel of our love and care; you have boldly walked up to and surrounded the stronghold of our country's hope and ours; and knocking, you ask to be admitted that you may discuss with us the position and the prospects of our children; and so it is that, instead of the champions of the oar, or municipal sages only, or Q. C.'s or M. P.'s, or Worthy Chiefs and Grand Masters, appearing in their respective characters, they have all laid aside their honourable distinctions, and are here