

ation, for discharged prisoners, and other friendless, lost women. God has abundantly prospered the work, even through many discouragements, and to-day, in this Conference, are noble, devoted women, who are neither afraid, nor ashamed, to take to their motherly hearts and homes, these unfortunate, perishing ones, who have been redeemed, not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.

"PRAYER, AND ITS INFLUENCE ON OUR WORK."

BY SARAH GARDINER, INVERMAY.

With the weak things of the earth God has promised to confound the mighty; women's work is, therefore, one of *prayer and faith*.

We are not, as a body, possessed of the powers which move largely on the human family. How much of the wealth of this world is ours? What amount of muscular strength within the small compass of our arms is developed? and what have we to say in the distribution of offices? Are we not weak? Yea, verily we are, and herein lies part of the secret of power in prayer, and its influence on our work; then let us not be discouraged.

Our cause is just even, though it be our home grievances, which are rank even in our fair land and smell to heaven. How can woman sit still and be quiet, while women's cries for help are in her ears? Mothers and sisters, goaded to the verge of madness or despair—holy women whose hearts have bled over the wrongs of others, have taken their hands and have tested the power of prayer, as Hagar in the wilderness, and fountains have gushed forth, and rocky hearts have been smitten and broken, and have sent forth streams which still run to bless the nation.

Every step forward which we take in this work of temperance and prohibition of this dire traffic in souls and bodies, is perfumed with the beaten oil of prayers, wrung from hearts, crushed and trampled on. Prayers from hearts humbled before God, with a true sense of utter inability to do the first thing to move this gigantic evil. No matter how wise our plan, how perfect our system, let us once begin to look to human sources for success to offer this heart-homage to other powers,—so surely as a curse was pronounced of old on those who dared profane the use of the beaten oil, so will we be left to our own way.

My sisters, do we not need this humble, praying spirit, even to keep us together and alive, to drive away indifference, indolence, self-sufficiency, and a whole host of evil spirits, which are ever on the alertful watch, to come in and destroy our work. Let us consecrate ourselves to this work, even as the women who opened the crusade.