

Two of the largest Presbyterian churches in the city, crowded on the same evening, bore witness to the interest which the speakers and the subject evoked.

An interesting adjunct of the council was the meeting of the representatives of the Women's Foreign Missionary Societies, held during portions of two days. This was a new feature in connection with the meetings of the Alliance, first suggested at London in 1888, and carried out at Toronto, under the auspices of the Board of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society (W.D.). Many ladies who are identified with woman's work for woman in heathen lands have been in the habit of attending the council meetings along with their husbands or friends: and it was thought that these and any others who might be specially delegated by the societies to which they belonged might meet and exchange views with each other, and with their fellow-workers in the same cause where the council met, and thus an impulse be given to the work and good accomplished. This hope was amply fulfilled. The meetings, we understand, were a success, and were felt to be profitable and quickening. The Central Church, in which they were held, was crowded to its utmost capacity. Steps were taken to have such meetings made a permanent adjunct of the council of the Alliance. Of course, were such gatherings to continue many days, they might interfere somewhat with the public interest felt in the council itself; but held, as the women's meetings in this instance were, in the morning and afternoon of one day, and the morning of the next, they aroused, rather than dissipated, the attention of the public to the meetings of the council.

The question is frequently asked, What benefits accrue from the meetings of the Alliance to compensate for the loss of time and money which they involve? The query is not an unreasonable one. Life is short, and the means at the disposal of Christian men are limited. No council of the Alliance can assemble without making heavy drafts on the time and wealth which might be used for the Master's work. A meeting to which men are expected to gather from every portion of the habitable earth would require to serve important ends in order to vindicate the wisdom of its existence.

The council of the Alliance is not a court of final appeal for the churches connected with it. It has no authority to exercise