

LADY ABERDEEN'S ADDRESS.

At a Public Meeting, held in the Town Hall, Port Arthur, on Tuesday, Sept. 25; the following address was delivered by Her Excellency, Lady Aberdeen:

Mrs Gibbs and Ladies: I find it difficult to respond appropriately to the very kind words with which Mrs Gibbs has welcomed me; I can only tell you how deeply touched I am by the very genuine sisterly cordiality of her greeting. I can assure you that I feel it to be a very great privilege and honor thus to be allowed to come in contact with the women workers of Port Arthur and Fort William and to be counted by them as a friend and fellow worker. I have already had that privilege in many other cities of Canada, and I feel it to be an inexpressible advantage to be allowed to come into touch with all the manifold works and activities which are being carried out throughout the Dominion, for the welfare of the community at large, and, indeed, I feel it would be more appropriate if I were a listener this afternoon instead of a speaker, for I would like you to tell me as a stranger all that you are carrying on amongst you and thus to give me help and inspiration. I understand, however, that you wish to confer together concerning a movement, which I have the honor of representing, and Mrs Gibbs, and that beautiful society called the Kings Daughters, with whom I claim special sisterhood and membership, were good enough to suggest such a meeting as this and to take in hand its organization, representing all the various societies and churches in Port Arthur, in order that I might have the opportunity of telling you something of this National Council of Women of Canada, which is intended by its authors and promoters to forge, as it were, a golden link uniting all the women workers from ocean to ocean in bonds of sisterhood for the high and holy work which they are called on to undertake by virtue of their common womanhood, and their common responsibilities in this fair country.

I am glad, therefore, to meet you and to respond to this invitation, recognizing how great is the mission

which has been given to the women of Canada—the women of a country which inherits such high traditions from times past and which, as a population possesses all the elements of greatness, and who as a people are God-fearing and law-abiding. It is impossible not to recognize what a future must lie before this country if its women can only be found true to those high responsibilities which have been laid upon them; if they build up homes from whence will issue influences which will both sweeten and exalt the whole current of national life and when we look around for a sign as to whether our women are going to be true to their responsibility, both of a private and a public nature, I think we have very much reason for thankfulness and for faith in the future. It has been surprising to those who have organized these women councils, in various centers of populations, when they have come to enquire into the various institutions and societies existing therein to find how many and how varied they are. I have had the pleasure of speaking to the representatives of some of your organizations and I could see that the women of this city are not behind others, and that in all the churches there are various societies for various purposes. I will not go over the various forms of philanthropic, religious, and educational work which exists amongst you, and which, in one form or another has, I doubt not, the sympathy of each one here, even when they cannot personally participate in their efforts.

But let us go back and ask how has this come about? Did it exist 15 years ago? or even 10 or 12 ago? We find that great progress has taken place, during the last few years in women's work and opportunities for good in all the countries of the world, and we can observe this fact in small outlying places, as well as in large cities and centers of population. The fact is, ladies, that women have found out that "union is strength." There used to be a sort of idea that women could not work together. We have heard on all sides that women had some sort of inherent incapacity for working together, but I think that that assertion has been pretty well contradicted of