

## The Advanced Woman

THE Congress of the Association for the Advancement of women, which met at St. John, N. B., in September last, was especially interesting in that it revealed the progress of women on this continent during the last quarter of a century. This Association was formed in 1873, at New York, by a band of American women. The first paper of the first Congress was read by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, who said :-

“How can women best associate their efforts for the amelioration of Society? We must come together in a teachable and religious spirit. Women, while building firmly and definitely the fabric they decide to rear, must yet build with an individual tolerance which their combined and corporate wisdom may better explain. The form of the Association should be representative in a true and wide sense. Deliberation in common, mutual instruction, achievements for the whole better and more valuable than the individual success of any,—these should be the objects had and held constantly in view. The good of all, the aim of each. The discipline of labor, faith and sacrifice is necessary. Our growth in harmony of will, and in earnestness of purpose will be far more important than in numbers.”

In these sentences the aim of the Association was contained. It has always been designed to further the interests of women and thereby of the whole race. Humanitarian in its views, the Association has instituted reforms which have benefited the whole American nation.

In reading over its history the first impression one receives is that of the catholicity of thought shown in the papers read before the various Congresses from year to year. From “Dress Reforms” to “The Comparative Mental Power of the Sexes, Physiologically Considered,” from “Physical Culture” to “Legal Position of Married Women,” hardly any subject of interest to women seems to have been omitted. A second impression is that no trouble or inconvenience has been thought too great if thereby the work might be furthered. From the North to the South, from the East to the West, these women have gone holding their annual congresses. Time and money have been freely spent in obtaining desired legislation.

But, though to trace its development would be both interesting and profitable, we must pass to the Association as