

homes. But I do not allude merely to externals in the matter of attendance and so forth; I refer also to the tone and spirit which has pervaded the meeting to-day, and of course particularly to the record which has been given by the president of the Council this evening of the work which has been accomplished. But while one feels that there is cause for congratulation and satisfaction, I also feel that to some of us, the surroundings and the circumstances are suggestive of another thought,—a wistful thought, called forth by the recollection of a former gathering under the auspices of the Women's Council in this hall. We think of how upon that occasion we had with us the presence of a great man, a prince of men, who is no longer with us,—a man whose life and example may well be commemorated, and whose memory may well be cherished by his countrymen. And it has, in a sense, been perpetuated. But his life might well be commemorated in the most solid and lasting manner—whether in marble or in metal; and all the more because of the marvellous modesty, the unassuming quietness which ever characterized him, which made him ever free from anything like self-seeking or showing any craving for praise or celebrity. His fame and worth have been recognized, and will, I trust, ever be remembered and treasured by the people of this country. And when Sir John Thompson was here to testify his appreciation of the National Council of Women he came as a public man. To-night again I rejoice in the fact that we have on the platform two specially representative members of the representative assembly of the country; and while I say this, of course it is not from any want of appreciation of the personal and individual kindness which has prompted them in responding to the invitation to them to be present, but of course they cannot, and I am sure would not wish to divest themselves of their more public character. In the same way, if I may be allowed to say so, I desire to be here, not only on account of personal or private predilections regarding this movement, but as having the honour in a sense to represent the most illustrious woman now living in the world (applause); and in that capacity to testify to the value of women's work.

Now as to the words of the resolution. It speaks of the value of the work done. As I have already said, the president has given a record of this, some of us perhaps thought it a prolonged record, but as Her Excellency said, that was not her fault, because it was in compliance with a request that she endeavoured to answer to some extent the very natural and reasonable questions, What have you done? What are you doing? What are you going to do? I think the record at any rate showed something in the way of accomplishment of work, and good work. (Hear, hear.) I shall not attempt to recapitulate or to enlarge upon that topic; but I could not help noticing the simile that was used with regard to the position of the Council of Women as being that of a wife. (Laughter.) Well, we all know that a man who is blessed with the inestimable benefit of a good wife, but who does not know how