

longer one of their Vice-Presidents. It afforded the society especial pleasure to have the Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen with them.

In reply the Governor-General said it must be admitted that no better test of the civilization and Christianity of any community or country can be found than the care and protection of children. And yet in many communities in which a great advance has been made in the externals at least of civilization and religion there has not been that care of the health, moral and physical, of the children. A great awakening had taken place in this respect. He referred chiefly to Great Britain, but it was so also in other countries. It had for years been in some countries penal to treat with barbarity a horse or a dog, but not a child. Happily that sentiment and antiquated notion, held often by very unsentimental people, of the absolute authority of parents was being got rid of. There had been in the past a great amount of ignorance in the matter of cruelty to children, and he illustrated this statement by telling of the organization of a society for the prevention of cruelty to children in a city in the Old Country. A great deal of indignation was expressed by the people of the town that the idea that any real cases of cruelty existed, but before the society had been organized six months so many cases had been brought up in the courts that its permanent existence was assured. Happily Toronto had such a society, The work of this society, too, was most comprehensive. It had power not only in cases of actual cruelty but it had power to prevent children from falling into crime. For this power they should all unite in thanking and congratulating the Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Gibson. His Excellency also spoke in terms of commendation of the institution of the Shelter. He concluded also by pointing out the claims which the Society undoubtedly had on the community at large. He then called on Hon. J. M. Gibson to move the adoption of the annual report and the election of officers.

Mr. Gibson made a capital address, in which he gave a clear outline of the workings of the bill of which he was the author, and what might be expected in the way of reform through its operations.