

good or to the evil forces, each of which will assuredly bring about its appropriate result. There are in all this multiplicity of activities just two groups under one or the other of which all the forces cast themselves. Those two groups are the formative and the reformatory; and I just bring this little imperfect picture before your minds to-night to point this truth; that when a society of men or women finds itself fit for philanthropic work, the first question is not the question what can be reformed, but what formative work can be done. It is ten thousand times better to take the little vine early and train it up aright, than to wait until it becomes a gnarled and crooked tree and then to endeavor to press it into symmetrical and shapely growth. Philanthropic work loses its very best essence when in its desire to reform something which has already gone wrong it refuses to see what can be done in a formative direction. And it is just here, ladies and gentlemen, where women's power comes in most effectively. She has a hold of the formative influences of society; and in those influences which women exercise from the very first on those who in their turn will be some day men and women, lies the best philanthropic work than can possibly be done. I simply wished to throw out this thought as a suggestion because I know the mistake that I myself made in my own early philanthropic work when I thought that my whole duty was to reform somebody or something. It is far easier and better to take hold of what is young and to gradually train it and form it in fitting and lovely shape, than to wait till it grows old and then to force its growth into unaccustomed directions.

I beg your pardon for having taken so much time and almost preached a sermon to you. It is out of my usual line, I assure you. I am ministerial in some respects, but the rôle of the preacher is one which I do not often assume. If in the mutations of political life it may fall to my lot to have to retire from office and from political position, may I ask that somewhere in this Women's Council some little place may be found for me in which I may do what perhaps after all may be far better work for humanity. (Applause.)

ADDRESS BY THE HON. WILFRID LAURIER.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen :

My friend Mr. Foster, in his opening remarks said that he was going to make an honest avowal. I do not know whether this is the result of the influence of the Parliament of Women; but though I have heard my friend, Mr. Foster, on many occasions before, I never heard him make such a statement as that. (Laughter.) I am, however, going to follow that very good example; I am going also to make an honest avowal. If I take any part in this meeting it is because I have been persuaded to do so under