

the scheme of forming what now is known and recognized as the "Provincial Christian Temperance Union of Ontario, by adoption of the following :

"We the Women of the Province of Ontario, deeply sensible of the increasing evil, alarmed at its tendencies, and danger of, and commiserating the misery caused by, Intemperance, believe that it has become our duty, under the Providence of God, to unite our efforts for its extinction.

And now after an elapse of a year, we are met together, and are standing on the "Mount of Answered Prayer," a platform so firm, because the mighty, potent hand of God holds and keeps us together by the strongest of influences, and a unity of purpose, and (now,) while we return to the "birth place" of our Association, what memories linger and are clustered around the remembrance of one year ago to-day, when we as Christian Women pledged ourselves to be true to God and to suffering humanity.

The year past has been an eventful one in the history of temperance reform. In this great field, so ready for the reaper, laborers have come, and from many an unknown and unexpected source has light come where it was once dark, and that light has revealed the mighty power of God to save, until from north, south, east and west, has the great tidal wave of Gospel Temperance swept over our fair Country, carrying away the floating drift-wood of prejudice that has been gathering for ages, and bringing with it "Hope" for all, and telling of one mighty to save and strong to deliver.

Organizations have multiplied, the power of the press felt as never before, and thick as leaves have been the burning words coming from consecrated lives and hearts. In this unusual excitement the women of this Province have had their part, for in this great moral war of Right and Wrong, God has placed women in the van. (A man once prayed about the W. Crusade, and he thanked heaven "that the weak things of the world were chosen to confound the mighty"; but he had forgotten that when St. Paul used that language he had reference to the men.) Women, with consecrated lives and hearts, for in this contest the strongest, the noblest, the bravest impulses of the human heart are seen and felt, namely—self-denial and devotion,—because we believe that "if intemperance is ever to be driven from our land it will be through the influence of women."

The question arises, what has been gained by the past year's experience? There are now throughout the Province 42 local Unions taking in 24 different Counties, There have been formed during the year 15 local Unions, so you see how rapidly we are progressing as to numbers. I have had returns from fifteen local Auxiliary Unions, and from them I beg leave to present you with this report.