



# The Onward March of Fifty Years.

## A TEMPERANCE ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BY

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FOR

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

OF

HAMILTON, ONTARIO.

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**F**IFTY years seem long or short according to the point of view. To the boy, standing on the threshold and looking out upon the apparently interminable stretch of a life-time, filled with hopeful landscapes, and bounded by the far blue hills of promise, fifty years seem an eternity ; to the old man, whose steps totter, and on whose white locks the westering sun casts its declining rays, they seem but a "tale that is told," a morning mist which has quickly passed away.

Sooner or later there comes to every man an almost humiliating sense of how little can be done in a life-time, of how feeble are his best efforts amid the vast sea of circumstance and difficulty on which he sails. A fourth part of life is passed amid the rearing influences of home, a fourth is devoted to gaining the rudiments of an education, a fourth is spent in finding out the work for which one is best adapted, and in learning to use the tools that have been placed in his hands ; then one has passed the meridian of life, and every step brings him nearer to the period when he shall "cease from labor," and his incompleted work shall follow him. It is little, indeed, that an individual can effect in fifty years.