

in all our discussions the women of Canada have never shown themselves in any way forgetful of their homes, nor in any way untrue to those homes. (Applause.)

When the National Councils of France, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark, and others of which Miss Wilson has told us this afternoon—when these meet in the International Council of Women to be held in London in 1898, I have no doubt at all but that the National Council of Women of Canada will stand high amongst them; and simply for this reason, that it can claim to be so absolutely representative a Council and because those who are leading it are so imbued with the sense that woman's first mission and glory lies in the right fulfilment of her duties in the home. They have joined this Council because they not only believe that it will not hinder them in these duties but that it will help them to rightly fulfil them, although with a higher aim and broader understanding and broader aim than ever before.

You tell us that we are queens of our homes—you tell us that you believe that in the strength of the homes of Canada lies the strength of the nation—you grant that that home is strongest where love reigns supremest. We are acting on that principle, but are asking to be allowed to take it a few steps further. The principle at which we aim is the making of this love supreme not only in the home but in Society, in Custom and in Law, and we claim that it is our mission as women to do what we can thus to apply it in any practical way we see open to us, in co-operation with you, gentlemen, for be sure, we shall never be so rash as to try to do it without you.

This then is the spirit in which we desire all the work we undertake to be pervaded. Our main cause of rejoicing, however, and our chief hope lies, not so much in the actual work done, but in remembering by whom it has been done. By whom? By women belonging to every church—to all political parties—to all classes of society, high and low, rich and poor, and to every shade of opinion, yet all joined together to strive to lift a lofty ideal—the very highest ideal before the community and to try to apply that ideal to our law, our customs, our social life. You may say perhaps that that is all sentiment. Well

do not know that everything about which I have spoken to you tonight is all sentiment, but if it be, still it is a sentiment which may transform the life of a nation. (Applause.)

There will doubtless often be failure—there must be disappointments—there must be difficulties. We know all that and are prepared for it. But if the women of this National Council throughout this Dominion are faithful according to their lights to the pledge which unites them, can we judge what its effect will be whether in an individual community or on the country at large? Think you that it is a small thing that the women of Halifax and Saint John are taking an interest in the needs of the women of Victoria and Vancouver, are trying to understand their position and wants and uniting with them in