

Addresses delivered at the Evening Session.

ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY LADY ABERDEEN.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen :

The Ottawa Local Council of Women is not yet dead—no, not by any means. When it was formed some two years ago there were a good many predictions made about it and it was not to have a long life, and that life was not to be a merry one, but in spite of these dismal prognostications, it seems, like the National Council of which it is a part, to show very vigorous signs of life and growth. At least so would we judge from the record which has been placed before us to-day in the various reports which have been made for our benefit and of which no organization need be ashamed.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am not going to weary you by going over the records of that work. We have heard to-day reports of the thirty societies which are federated with us. We have heard also of their work. We have some slight conception of what the women in connection with all the different churches, in the city, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, are trying to do in the city. We have some idea of what the different societies, institutions, organizations, sisterhoods and unions are labouring to accomplish in the cause of religion, temperance, and the general help and uplifting of the community in which we live, and the mere record of these aims is enough, I think, to leave us food for serious thought. But you will ask, being thus an organization united from so many diverse quarters pledged to one aim, and that a vast one, the furtherance of the application of the Golden Rule to Society, Custom, and Law—what have we as a Local Council of Women done to redeem that pledge. Many and various have been the subjects brought before us, each having its claim on us in virtue of that pledge—and discussed, and I hope that discussion has been in no case without its value. But as you have heard to-day there have been two main objects which our Local Council—apart from the work which it has done at the request of the National Council—has attempted for the welfare of this community.

Mrs. Bronson has told us to-day in the report of the Associated Charities what it is now doing and we who were here remember the start of that Association. We remember the admirable paper which Mrs. Bronson laid before this Council now nearly two years ago—and how the effort to organize Associated Charities has gone on step by step—how it was referred to one of our own sub-committees—how the Ottawa Humane Society took special interest in the subject—how subsequently we approached the Mayor and requested him to summon a public meeting in its behalf and how cordially he entered into the project. We know, too, how Lady Ritchie, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Bronson and others, interested themselves in the organization of the