

## "PRACTICAL IDEALISM"

\* Address by Lady Drummond.

---

I understand that I am called on to-day for reminiscences, and this because we especially desire, on this occasion, to do honour to Miss Derick, and to tell the story of the work is perhaps the best and most acceptable way to show forth the value of the worker.

I may, however, preface my little retrospect with the remark that only a double metaphor can express Miss Derick's value to the Council. She has been both a pillar of its strength and one of the very stones of its foundations.

For myself the single metaphor must suffice—I begin to feel myself very deep underground among the first stones that were laid in 1893. It is because of this "antiquity," no doubt, that I am asked for "reminiscences." I may say, though it be a digression, that not long ago I was surprised to read in someone else's published reminiscences, of "older Montreal," that the house where Lady Drummond was born might still be seen standing on St. James Street. For a humble individual, such as I, who has nothing to fear from a tablet, it is immaterial but harmless to correct this statement by saying that I first saw the light on Union Avenue. This I take on evidence, but I have a vivid personal recollection of the day, hour and place that the Local Council began to be. 'Twas in the Old Hall of the Victoria Armory on Cathcart Street, and it was not inappropriate that it should come into the world in a militant atmosphere, for it had to encounter not a little opposition in its early days.

First it had to find itself and then it had to dissipate all kinds of queer impressions as to what it really was. I remember that one old friend dashed up to me in a shop not long after to deliver her soul. She expressed her keen disappointment that I had joined the ranks of the strong-minded women, and then, as if her feelings were

---

\* Delivered at the 18th Annual Meeting of the Montreal Local Council of Women, May 7, 1912.