

dressed in black.' Mrs. Blakey, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Pearson and Miss Impy also accompanied Mrs. Lucas. The Canadian delegation was composed of five ladies. From the Province of Quebec were Miss Dougall, daughter of the late John Dougall, the founder of the Montreal *Witness*, and Mrs. S. W. Foster, of Knowlton, Que. Ontario was represented by the President of the Provincial W. C. T. U., and Miss Bowes, Provincial Organizer. Mrs. Letitia Youmans, as President of the Dominion W. C. T. U., represented Canada in general."

THE OLIO.

I have been thinking for a month or two that I ought to write to the readers of the REVIEW something about our "Olio," hoping it may stir them up to a like literary pursuit. Some localities may be blessed with them already. Let such be encouraged in all good endeavors to rise above the mist-damp vales of ignorance and superstition into the purer, diviner air of moral, intellectual, as well as spiritual mountain-heights. I extend to the Olio's sister societies the warm, sympathetic hand of friendship, and whisper "struggle on, the upper regions have a reward for thee." However, it is not to these that I am called to address myself. It is to the unfortunate. I am acquainted with some of the blessings the Olio has brought to our neighborhood. I am acquainted with some of the blessings it has brought to me, therefore I write, therefore I entreat. The mission of the little REVIEW is to the young people, and its object is to do them good. How in harmony is this present effort of mine? Never before the little paper started had we such a direct and easy intercourse. Let us avail ourselves of the opportunity and "neglect not the gift that is in us."

Already for twelve winters the Olio has been running. It gives no sign of decline, but rather seems to be in the era of vigorous growth. The blessings it scatters around bespeak it a long life yet. The experiment is an experiment no longer. I write from experience, and experience has pronounced it an undoubted success. Therefore I ask other

neighborhoods to try it. Ask a dozen or fifteen of your young acquaintances to meet: tell them to bring selections to read. I will quote from the "History of the Olio," compiled in 1885, at the end of the first decade, a passage describing the first Olio: "We see by the programme there were two speeches, five readings and five songs. The members remained seated when reading, I presume they considered it safer. The speech-makers, however, arose and supported their trembling frame against the wall. One young lady prepared a piece to read entitled 'The Old Maid's Lament,' but just before the ordeal her heart failed. She handed the paper to one of the sterner sex, and in his agitation he gave the title out 'The Old Maid's Lemonade.'" We need not wonder at these mistakes. It was a new thing; they were inexperienced; they were mere children, mostly in their teens yet: children though they were, awkward though they seemed, they did a deed whose beneficent influence has come down the years shedding forth an increasing glory. From a tiny acorn grows the mighty oak, rising superior to all the other trees and becoming the delight of the forest. From such a modest beginning sprang the Olio, rising superior to all parties and plays and becoming the delight of winter—

"They builded better than they knew."

This is a description of the first Olio. I will now give a description of it as it stands at present after many a change and revolutionary conflict. I hope I may do it plainly enough, that those unfortunate localities may be able to organize, and that those already running may gain some profitable hints. I will give you an estimate of the very last that you may compare it with the very first. There were four readings, six recitations, two essays, three speeches, one dialogue, one piece of music, a criticism of the previous meeting, and a discussion. The dialogue was the one entitled "A Plea from the Vegetable Kingdom," by Laura W. White. It was rendered by nine of the younger members in a manner worthy of the grand sentiments so grandly expressed. The speeches—some are impromptu on subjects furnished, some are prepared on subjects also furnished by a committee. The discussion is conducted