

Orphan Asylum in Montreal, and it was natural that she should desire a similar institution for the city which was then her home. Dr. C. S. Sewell, one of the resident physicians of Ottawa at that time, a friend of Col. and Mrs. Coffin, a man warm-hearted and of a philanthropic spirit, had also been interested in such work. They therefore talked the matter over with some of their most intimate friends, and Mrs. Coffin called together, at her own house, a few of those who she thought would be likely to assist in carrying out this undertaking.* Whether the idea first originated with Dr. Sewell or Mrs. Coffin cannot now be positively determined. In a notice, in the *Daily Union*, of the meeting held December 9th, it says, "We believe the credit of this movement is due, in a great measure, if not entirely, to the philanthropic exertions of Dr. Sewell." Mrs. Coffin, who herself wrote the first Annual Report, calls Dr. Sewell the "promoter," and also uses the words, "Dr. Sewell succeeded in organizing a meeting of ladies of the different Protestant denominations"; but the late Mrs. Ed. Griffin, who was one of those present at the drawing-room meeting, always felt that to Mrs. Coffin belonged the credit of the first steps. In the absence of positive proof, it would seem but right that they should share alike in the honor.

It is evident from what followed that those who met at Mrs. Coffin's house decided on the desirability and feasibility of proceeding with the undertaking, consulted with others, and succeeded in interesting a still wider circle, prominent among

* The late Mrs. Ed. Griffin, who was present, is my authority for this statement. Mrs. H. V. Noel and Miss Coffin also remember this meeting.