

WOMEN.

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

President of the International Council of Women.

ISABEL COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN stands in the foremost rank of women of the time, and is well known throughout the civilised world in connection with political and philanthropic movements. She is the youngest daughter of the first Lord Tweedmouth, and was born in 1857. The first twenty years of her life were spent chiefly in the Highlands, and on her marriage to the Earl of Aberdeen she emerged from the seclusion of Inverness-shire into the sphere of active sociology and politics. As the wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, although she was mistress of Dublin Castle for less than a year, she threw herself sympathetically into the sorrows and needs of the Irish people, and established the "Irish Industries Association." The first practical outcome of this work was to be seen at the Irish Exhibition at Olympia, where specimens of lace, weaving, and knitting were on view: and there is now an establishment in London where the famous Irish tweeds, the beautiful and delicate Irish laces, with the linen goods and embroideries for which the "distressful country" is so justly famous, find a ready market, and thus afford employment and food to many Irish workers.

In addition, the Association aims at establishing and developing industries, and the training and education of the workers. The part Lady Aberdeen took in organising the Irish Village at the World's Fair, Chicago, is very well known. It was a great success, both from the artistic and the financial standpoint, and must have given vigorous impetus to Irish industries.

"The busiest find the most time" is surely exemplified in Lady Aberdeen's life, since her energy seems to have no limit. She has found time to spare from all the large National and Political questions, to set on foot the "Onward and Upward Associa-

tion," which originally had for its aim the raising of the standard not only of morality, but of work amongst girls of the domestic servant class, crofters' daughters and others, and to give them interests to vary the monotony of their lives. Married women are now enrolled as members, and every effort is made to teach them how to make their homes healthy, cheerful, orderly and happy. A branch of this Association was recently organised in Montreal, and as well, the movement has spread to such remote districts as Transkei, in South Africa.



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Another admirable work of which Lady Aberdeen is joint Secretary with Adeline Duchess of Bedford, is the "Associated Workers' League," which has proved most successful in opening up a way for women who wish to do some work for others, but are not able to originate methods.

Lady Aberdeen is also on the Committee of the "Society for Homes for the Working Girls in London." At Haddo House Lord and Lady Aberdeen have opened a Home for "Orphan and Destitute Girls." The inmates receive an excellent education, are supported until they reach the age of seventeen or eighteen, and are then allowed the choice of a profession. A little Cottage Hospital has also been established on the estate, which accommodates six inmates, the patients, when able to do so, contributing five shillings a week to

their support.

Lady Aberdeen is the first President of the National Council of Women of Canada, and in this way the woman's question is, in a sense, under Government sanction. The formal organisation of the National Council for Canada took place at a meeting held in Toronto on October 26th, 1893, the suggestion to form a National Council of Women for every country in the world having been previously made at Chicago in May of the same year. In her desire to organise the National Council on large and national lines, Lady Aberdeen has travelled the whole length and breadth of Canada, and has personally directed the formation

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