

The White & Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

NO. 1.

CHRISTCHURCH: JULY, 1895.

2s 6d. PER ANNUM.

THE WHITE RIBBON.

EDITOR MRS SHEPPARD
 ASSOCIATE } { MISS M. S. POWELL
 EDITORS } { MISS L. M. SMITH

TREASURER AND BUSINESS MANAGER :

MRS W. S. SMITH, 201, Hereford-street, Christchurch

DISTRIBUTING DEPARTMENT ... MRS VENABLES
 COMMITTEE :

NEW ZEALAND PRESIDENT
 NEW ZEALAND CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
 MRS WELLS
 MISS L. M. KIRK
 And above-mentioned Officers.

NOTICE.

All Literary Communications for insertion in **WHITE RIBBON** must be addressed to the Editors, Box 114, Christchurch.

In launching this, the first issue of our **WHITE RIBBON** messenger, we should have no fears as to its ultimate success, believing, as we do, that it will meet a long-felt want.

To have a paper which shall not only be the official organ of the W.C.T.U., but will be a medium for the discussion of subjects bearing on social, political, moral, and religious questions of the day, will, we think, be found so useful that we shall wonder how we managed to do without one so long. It will be essentially a woman's paper, one that will deal with the many phases of the "Woman Question" in its legal and social aspects.

That there is still "one law for man and another for woman" is, in this nineteenth century of ours, a humiliating fact, and the one-sided unwritten social code to which the law gives support, is a disgrace to our civilisation, and

altogether out of harmony with the spirit of love which should permeate society.

When all the disabilities under which women labour are removed, then, and not till then, shall we be a free country in the fullest sense of the word; and we intend that our paper shall do its part in helping to cultivate a more healthy and just public opinion in this direction.

As a Union we are well organised, but it is our great desire to see a Federation of all the Women's Societies throughout New Zealand, so that, while differing from each other in general aims, they may combine for special objects on which all may agree, and thus become a force.

Our paper would do its best to help on this general federation, and act as a medium between the Federal Societies. Because this is a woman's paper, it should be especially interesting to men, numbers of whom we hope to enrol as subscribers.

The "New Man" will be well treated by us, but to the conventional Mrs Grundy-ridden gentleman we don't promise much, excepting that if he thinks we are worth criticising, we will receive his criticisms in the spirit in which it is meant. We do not intend crowding our space, which, for economic reasons will at first be limited, with descriptions of the latest fashions in dress, and what our friends wore at their last reception, but will endeavour to appeal to the more thoughtful section of the community—those who take an interest in their kind, and would like to see our beautiful new land freed from the blots that have stained the records of most of the older countries. It is possible that we may fail in much that we hope to do, but someone says, "High failure o'er-tops low success." It is also possible that our failures may teach us much that we should not otherwise learn, and so we venture to send forth our **WHITE RIBBON**, hoping earnestly that our friends will help by subscribing to it themselves, and making its existence known to others,

K. W. SHEPPARD.