

And yet, if you had been there, you would have found yourselves thinking about none of these things. You would have found yourself catching something of her inspiration, and forming resolves that would be all the more easily carried out for the having heard that voice.

"How did you like it?" I asked a friend as we were leaving. "Very much," he answered. "Wasn't Miss Kirk good? Oh! I *will* work when I get back home."

On Saturday we met for business in the Hall of the First Church. In the afternoon our delegates were entertained by Mrs John Hislop, at her residence at the North-East Valley. The beautiful surrounding scenery and the generous provision made by the hostess for our pleasure and comfort made our visit a delightful one. During the afternoon Mrs W. Downie Stewart photographed the group of delegates and friends in front of the house, and was very successful with the negatives obtained.

In addition to this party pleasant gatherings were held at the residences of Mrs Dick and Mrs Boot, and other friends, during Convention.

Sunday morning saw us scattered throughout the various Dunedin churches, but in the afternoon we gathered together for a Gospel Temperance service in the Garrison Hall. Addresses were given by Mrs Schnackenberg, Miss Kirk, and Miss Maginness, Mrs Dick presiding.

Business was resumed again on Monday morning, and at two o'clock on Wednesday the Convention was closed by singing "Bless'd be the tie that binds," and prayer by the President. We felt that, on the whole, the Convention of 1896 was a good one. Old friendships were renewed, new friendships formed, and the bands that bind Union to Union throughout the colony were visibly strengthened. Misunderstandings have been removed, increased respect for each other's work has been gained, and while all have realised more fully the obstacles that obstruct our path, we have become more determined to grapple with them. There has been an increase both in our membership and in the number of Unions. We are therefore encouraged to hope that the Convention of 1897, which is to be held in Christchurch, will receive a record of work which will surpass anything we have had before.

Our Conditions of Membership.

The article on our conditions of membership, which appeared in the March issue of the WHITE RIBBON, formed the subject of a discussion at Convention. It was argued that legal prohibition being one of the objects in our Constitution, it must necessarily follow that every

member, and especially every officer, must be a Prohibitionist. On the other hand, it was pointed out that prohibition was only one of our objects, and that it would be unwise and foolish to insist on one object more than another.

The Presidents of two Unions—one in the North Island and the other in the South Island—said that when they joined the W.C.T.U. they were averse to prohibition, and that if their assent to this form of Temperance work had been demanded they would not have become members. They had joined because they were total abstainers, and were interested in women's work, and their conversion to prohibition was entirely due to their connection with the W.C.T.U. The President of another Union stated that a former President had demanded of her officers an assent to the doctrine of prohibition. Not being able to give it, they had retired from the Union, which had been materially weakened ever since. The tone of Convention was decidedly against any narrow or restrictive reading of the conditions of membership, it being felt that, so long as women were willing to pay their subscriptions and sign the Constitution, we should gladly welcome them as members.

The following resolution on this subject was passed by the Convention:—"Any woman signing the Constitution and paying her dues may become a member of any W.C.T.U., and may be elected to any office in the Union."

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The W.C.T.U. page of the *Prohibitionist* of April 4 contains the following words referring to our conditions of membership:—"In any case no person should be elected to office who is not willing to accept the whole constitution. The Prohibition Leagues receive as members those who, while wishing for the abolition of the liquor traffic, are not themselves total abstainers; but the Leagues would never think of appointing to important offices those who are not teetotallers."

By referring to the resolution of the Convention quoted in the leaderette above, it will be seen that the writer in the *Prohibitionist* is in direct conflict with the W.C.T.U. authorities. This is much to be regretted when it is remembered that the page in which the statement appears is paid for by the Christchurch Union specially "to further the interests of the W.C.T.U." Our authorities have expressly stated that any member is eligible for office.

The analogy that is sought for in stating that the Prohibition Leagues accept members who are not abstainers but will not elect them to office does not apply. The Prohibition Leagues exist solely for the suppression of the liquor traffic, and while to outsiders it may seem peculiar that the Leagues should admit as members persons who