

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

VOL. 1.—No. 12.

CHRISTCHURCH: JUNE, 1896.

2s 6d Per Annum.
Post Free.

Some Notable Women.

By K. W. S.

(Continued from April issue.)

MRS MASSINGBERD,

President of the London Pioneer Club, is a woman of enterprise and organising ability. Portraits of her abound, so that it is probable her appearance is well known to our New Zealand readers. The tweed tailor-made costume, in which she is generally photographed, is her usual mode of dress, and her short hair emphasises her smart, business-like appearance.

I was introduced to her at an evening meeting of the Club, when she gave me a warm welcome as one of the enfranchised sisterhood.

The subject for the evening was "Moral *versus* Physical Force," which was opened by Madam Sarah Grand.

I cannot remember now how the after-discussion strayed to the subject of Women's Suffrage, unless it was that a member when speaking gave it as her opinion that Parliamentary Morals would be of a higher order when women had a voice in the nation's affairs. A visitor rose and remarked that the women of New Zealand had not given much evidence of morality since obtaining the franchise, as some of them had gone to a meeting, and had actually opposed a Bishop on the question of Moderation in drinking habits. Mrs Massingberd said that a lady from New Zealand was present,

and asked if she could throw any light on this subject? I responded, saying that, although the meeting in question was held since I had left the country, I had seen accounts of it in the newspapers, and gathered that the ladies referred to were abstainers, and voted for "Abstinence" rather than "Moderation." My explanation was well received, and this closed the question of the immorality of the New Zealand women. At all events, I heard nothing further of it. After the discussion was over, Mrs Massingberd gathered up the threads in an able way, and the meeting closed.

In "The story of the Pioneer Club," published in the January number of *Shafts*, the following paragraphs appeared:—

"The President of the Pioneer Club is a woman of broad, enlightened views of life, humble in her estimate of her own powers, but strong and proud in her impulses, her hopeful, earnest desires, which fill her with a sense of power and speed her on her way. Through her mental atmosphere many lights stream, enabling her to see the innumerable wants of the world, and to *all* her sympathy is freely given. She is an earnest, unselfish worker wherever work is to be done; no good cause seeks her aid in vain; many have the benefit of her active personal labours and influence; of some she has been the initiative, propelling

force, notably so in the case of the Pioneer Club.

In Temperance reform her work is well known, and has had both moral and practical results. At Bournemouth, Burgh, in Lincolnshire and other places, houses of refreshment and rest have been erected, all bearing testimony to the fact that travellers' wants can be attended to, and their needs supplied, without the aid of intoxicants."

As many of our readers are aware

MRS CLARA C. HOFFMAN,

of America, has been invited by our N.Z. Union to "come over and help us" with W.C.T.U. and Prohibition work in next July, and we are now awaiting her cable saying (we trust) that she will come. Mrs Hoffman is a widow with one son, who is, unfortunately, delicate in health, which makes it difficult for her always to arrange for long journeys from home. I saw and heard her first at a meeting of the "World's" Biennial Convention held in London last year, and was much impressed by her.

She is undoubtedly a clever woman, with a striking personality; and there is a quiet strength about her which one recognises unconsciously. She appears to be about fifty years of age; is tall and straight, with iron-grey hair, and expressive black eyes, which, while they are keen and earnest, are ready to twinkle at a moment's notice.