

ports, and also the W.C.T.U. pledge. A list of books suitable for use by members might be added. These could be sold to auxiliary Unions for, say 2d per copy. A copy would be given to every member on her initiation. Present members would be glad to have all this information in a succinct form, and if the booklets were sold as suggested, no expense need be incurred by the N.Z. Union.—I am, etc.,

WHITE RIBBONER.

Naseby, April 23rd.

## OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

In response to the resolutions forwarded to the Premier and the Speakers of both Houses from the recent Convention, the following replies have been received by the N.Z. Corresponding Secretary:—

Premier's Office,  
Wellington,  
April 15th, 1897.

Miss Mary S. Powell,  
Corresponding Secretary,  
W.C.T.U. of N.Z.,  
Palmerston N.

Madam,—The Premier has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, forwarding resolutions passed at the Convention of the Union recently held at Christchurch, relative to the C.D. Act, Divorce, Age of Consent, Equal Wages for men and women, and the removal of civil and political disabilities from women. In reply I am to say that all these matters will receive the careful consideration of the Government.

Yours obediently,  
ALEX. WILLIS,  
Secretary.

House of Representatives,  
Wellington,  
April 10, 1897.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Hon. the Speaker of the House of Representatives to acknowledge the receipt from you of a copy of a Resolution passed by the Women's Christian Temperance Union of N.Z., urging the amendment of the law of Divorce, and to inform you that as the present meeting of Parliament is only for the special object of dealing with the visit of the Premier to England, for the purpose of attending

the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession, the matter of the marriage law will not be dealt with this session. I have the honour to be, madam,

Your obedient servant,  
H. OTTERSON,  
Clerk Assistant.

In a letter to Miss Powell, Miss Agnes E. Slack, World's Corresponding Secretary, says:—"I do not see any likelihood at present of Lady Henry and Miss Willard going to New Zealand. I returned home from America on Dec 26. I had a delightful time there, only it was rather too busy and I did rather too much, the distances were so enormous. I expect returning there in August to be ready for the World's Convention in October. Can you send a delegate from New Zealand? We should so much like you to be represented, but if that is not possible please let me have a report, not exceeding 2,000 words, of our N.Z.W.C.T.U. Please keep the Convention well to the front in your press as we are anxious the whole world should feel the influence of our great gathering in Canada.

Lady Henry has been ill, she is better, but is doing almost no public work."

## \* WOMEN'S \* SOCIETIES \*

We have received a number of reports of meetings of various societies at which delegates to the recent meeting of the National Council gave an account of the proceedings thereat. As our space is largely encroached on by a synopsis of some of the papers read before the Council, we are unable to find space for the reports of these meetings. By our next issue we hope to have cleared off some of our accumulated copy, and shall be glad to resume our usual reports of meetings.

### Work Among the Maoris.

No report of this department was received at Convention, but we have since learned items of the work carried on by Mrs Hewett.

In January a "social" was held by the Maori converts, at which over 200 men were present.

The work has been spreading among a number of Maori Pahs, and is being heartily taken up by the native women around Rotorua. Early in February

Mrs Hewett gave a tea to the Maori scholars, and then formed the first Maori branch of the "Ministering Children's League," 40 of the children giving in their names as members.

On February 20, Mrs Hewett, accompanied by Mrs Foley as Secretary of the Ohinemutu W.C.T.U., proceeded to Maketu, Mrs Foley acting as interpreter. At Maketu they were entertained by the Rev. Ramaka, and held a very successful meeting, forming a new branch. Miss Spencer, formerly of Rotorua, was elected President, and as that lady is thoroughly conversant with the Maori language and customs, the branch should be very successful.

Mrs Hewett and Mrs Foley then went to Te Puke, visiting the Natives in their whares, obtaining new pledges, and encouraging the blue-ribboners already there.

They also visited the Native School at Te Puke, and speak highly of the work done there. On their return a short stay was made at Te Ngae, where wedding festivities were going on. Eight blushing brides were led to the altar by as many bridegrooms, and it is interesting to note that no intoxicating drink was to be seen. Since Mrs Hewett's previous visit 17 men have joined the Union. Distribution of medals and Testaments was made at Te Ngae, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs Hewett and Mrs Foley for their visit.

### Third Triennial Convention Of the W.C.T.U. of Australasia.

This Convention met at Brisbane, Queensland, on April 27th, fifty-two delegates from the various Unions being present.

The Presidential address by Mrs Nicholls was able and comprehensive.

Interesting reports were presented by superintendents of departments.

Mrs Nicholls (S.A.) was re-elected president of the Australasian Union, the result being received with loud applause.

Miss Lockwood (S.A.) was elected Australasian secretary, and Mrs Thompson (V.) treasurer.

An especially interesting report was that given by Mrs Lodge, of Tasmania legislative work, stating that though their labours had not been in vain, but had produced great and substantial improvement, nevertheless rose-coloured views should not be entertained. No great permanent improvement in the conditions of the country could be expected until Government declared that the liquor traffic was an