

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

VOL. 2.—No. 24.

CHRISTCHURCH: JUNE, 1897.

2s 6d Per Annum.
Post Free.

The Moral and Social Aspects of Temperance.

A PAPER WRITTEN BY MISS L. M. KIRK, OF WELLINGTON, AND READ AT THE MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL COUNCIL IN CHRISTCHURCH.

If you look up the word "temperance" in a dictionary, you will find "moderation" given as one of the first synonyms; but in the great contemporary controversy which finds most frequent need for the words, the irony of custom has stamped them with contrary meanings. As applied to the drink question "moderation" retains its primary meaning of moderate indulgence, but "temperance" has come to mean the habit of total abstinence from intoxicating beverages; and when I am asked to discuss "The Moral and Social Aspects of Temperance," it is the moral and social grounds for or against total abstinence into which I am expected to enquire. The subject appears to me to be particularly well chosen at the present time. The drink question in this country has assumed such an engrossing political interest as to obscure in the eyes of both parties to the fight, the homelier, but equally vital matter of private ethics. It is well in the brief lull that follows the triennial poll to consider the matter of indulgence in alcoholic liquors from the individual standpoint, as a matter for him to settle for himself in his own conscience, with-

out the threatened interference of the collective conscience called the State, to embarrass his decision. That drastic State action will still be needed for the final determination of the problem may be considered probable; but it is equally certain that that action must proceed from a quickening of individual consciences, to a degree hitherto unrealised, if it is to be successful and permanent.

But for the purposes of this paper the question resolves itself into this:—(1). Is alcohol good or bad in its effect upon the individual? (2). Is it good or bad in its general effect upon society? First as to the individual; if he were an isolated atom, perhaps there would be no obligation to abstain; at any rate in a normal individual the obligation would be only one of prudence; he would be fairly entitled to cheer with wine his solitary existence, even though by so doing he shortened its span. Self-denial for the sake of self-denial is simply asceticism, and neither Christianity nor common-sense. As Prof. Drummond says:—"The only greatness is unselfish love. Even self-denial *in itself* is nothing—is almost a mistake. Only a great purpose or a mightier love can justify the waste." But probably the world will not see another Robinson Crusoe, so that the private right of an individual isolated in that manner does not affect the question here and now." Washington Gladden says:—"If there

were a man who had no neighbour, he could not obey God's law; he could not be a man in any proper sense of the word." With the social aspect, then, the moral also arises; the individual's duty with regard to alcohol must depend upon its *effect on society*.

IS ALCOHOL GOOD OR BAD IN ITS GENERAL EFFECT UPON SOCIETY?

Let us take the opinions of those who from their official position can speak with authority as to the darker side of society. Dr Guthrie calculated that 99 per cent. of the destitute children of Great Britain owed their destitution to drink. Dr Barnardo, who at the beginning of his investigations believed this to be a gross exaggeration, arrived at a minimum of 99 per cent., and became a total abstainer in consequence. Dr Stephenson, a man of almost equally wide experience among the poor of great cities, gives a similar estimate. Mr Charles Booth, the great authority on London pauperism, who is sometimes quoted as having given a smaller estimate of evils attributable to drink than other authorities, nevertheless is careful to say that of all preventable causes of misery, drink is the most prolific. The newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury says—"Of all the preventable evils in the world, intemperance is perhaps the greatest." Councillor Alexander McDougall, vice-chairman of the Manchester Board of Guardians, after a most exhaustive enquiry, sums up his results thus—"My

investigations prove beyond doubt that 51.24 per cent of the pauperism is caused directly by drinking habits, and gave strong reason for belief that a large proportion of the remainder was indirectly brought about by drink. There can therefore be

NO EXAGGERATION

in assuming that one-half of the whole poverty of the Nation is due, either directly or indirectly, to habits of intemperance. This calculation leaves out of account altogether the bitter experiences of poverty in families where the fathers and mothers earn sufficient for the necessities of life, and cannot be regarded as poor, but where so much of the income is wasted in drink that there is want of food, clothing, and necessaries."

Then as to crime, the Lord Chief Justice of England said not long ago: "But for drink we might shut up nine out of ten of our gaols." Baron Huddleston declared that nineteen-twentieths of the crime that came before him was connected with drink. Judge Patterson, at Norwich, when addressing the grand jury, said "But for this drink you and I should have nothing to do." Mr Justice Denman, at Exeter Assizes, said, "he had often mentioned, and he did not know that he could do better than mention again, a most remarkable instance of the connection between offences of violence and excessive drinking. On one occasion, in a northern county, he sat to try a calendar of 63 prisoners, out of whom 36 were charged with offences of violence, from murder downwards—there being no less than 6 murders among those 36. In every single case, *not indirectly, but directly*, these offences were attributable to excessive drinking. So that, as he told the grand jury on that occasion, it would have been a calendar totally free from offences of violence if it had not been, so to speak, a calendar redolent of drink, and consequently full of indications of brutality."

Mr Justice Fitzgerald spoke of intemperance as a "crying and besetting crime—a crime leading to nearly all other crimes—a crime which they might very well say led to nineteen-twentieths of the crimes in this country." Our own Chief Justice attributes two-thirds of the crime that comes before him directly to the influence of drink. The Governors of Wellington, Napier, and Dunedin Gaols, assert that 80 PER CENT. OF THEIR PRISONERS would not have come there but for drink, and the Governor of Napier gaol adds that even a higher percentage of the women owe their degradation to this cause.

In view, then, of the enormous amount of social misery, vice, and crime for which alcohol stands responsible, we see that the true basis of Temperance is Charity. The slight pleasure that indulgence brings to the respectable moderate drinker is as a feather's weight against the load of woe that drink lays upon numbers of our fellow-creatures. There is no pretence that alcohol is necessary to the full development or enjoyment of life, and its value as a medicine need not be considered here, for that is not the point at issue. At most and at best, it is but an addition to social pleasure and enjoyment, and at worst, ah! who can measure the suffering and loss of a child cursed, even from before his birth, with moral and physical disease by reason of the drinking habits of his parents? Who can paint the agony and heart-break of a woman as the light of hope and love flickers and goes out in the darkness of despair? Who can adequately pity the sickening horror of the man who finds that he has passed the "moderate" line of safety, and that his most passionate efforts at reform are powerless against the burning craving that overmasters him? Surely the suffering of one of the least of these outweighs in amount and intensity the joys of an army of self-controlled moderate drinkers. Surely it behoves everyone to ask what is his duty in regard to an evil so mighty and so far-reaching in effects.

To be concluded.



[We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

Brunnerton.

We have had much pleasurable excitement this month in anticipation of Miss Kirk's visit, our last monthly meeting being mainly occupied with preparations for the same. A communication requesting subscription towards the WHITE RIBBON debt was dealt with, a donation voted, and one new subscriber obtained, making six in all from our Union. On May 11th a special meeting was held to make final arrangements in connection with the coming public meetings, and on May 13th we had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Kirk to Brunnerton, when she addressed her first meeting, the large hall being well filled and the platform tastefully decorated. Our Presi-

dent, Mrs Smith, occupied the chair, and a choir, under the leadership of Mr J. Smith, enlivened the proceedings with music. At the close one new member and two honorary members were obtained. The next afternoon some members and friends met in the Presbyterian Church for a social cup of tea with our visitor, and a pleasant hour was spent in conversation and music. Here Miss Kirk unfolded a scheme for the establishment of a Boys' Club, the nucleus of which was obtained at her evening meeting, when seven youths signed the pledge and gave their names as prospective members. After the second public meeting, which was presided over by Mrs Gasikin, President of the Greymouth Union, tea was once more handed round to members and friends, and seven more members enrolled. In spite of rather unfavourable weather, Miss Kirk's mission proved a decided success, and a source of increase to our Union. Her presence has had a cheering and stimulating influence upon our members, and we may certainly congratulate ourselves that we were privileged to have her amongst us.

Hokitika.

The three Unions on the West Coast co-operated in inviting Miss L. M. Kirk to pay us a visit. She kindly accepted, and arrived in Greymouth on May 9. After conducting very successful meetings there and in Brunner, Miss Kirk came on to Hokitika on Saturday, May 15, and was welcomed at the Railway Station by a goodly number of White Ribbon women.

The first public meeting was held on Monday evening, when the Town Hall was filled with eager listeners. His Worship the Mayor presided, and the President and Vice-President of the Union, with the clergymen of the various denominations, occupied seats on the platform.

Miss Kirk charmed us all with her address on "the origin and history of the W.C.T.U. movement." On Tuesday evening another public meeting was held, but the weather being stormy, militated against a good attendance. Miss Kirk spoke very earnestly on "Prohibition," evidently having a good grasp of her subject.

On Wednesday afternoon we had arranged a meeting for women only, but, as it rained very heavily and blew a hurricane, very few but Union members came out. However, we had a splendid address from Miss Kirk, who threw out many useful hints as to how W.C.T.U. work might be carried on in our part of the world.

Miss Kirk had to leave on Thursday morning in order to fulfil an engagement in Nelson on the 24th. We were quite sorry to part with her. We enjoyed her visit exceedingly and trust that its influence will be felt for many days to come.

Midhurst.

Our Union held a meeting on May 26, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. The following was the result:—President, Mrs Lawrence; Vice-president, Mrs E. S. Vickers; Secretary, Miss Vickers; Treasurer, Mrs Keightley.

A fortnight hence we are to have a public meeting of an educational character. Several ladies from a distance are expected to address us, and we are expecting a real good meeting.

We have held 15 meetings throughout the year, and yet we feel that little actual work has been done. However, this year we hope to take up several new branches, and get each member to take some part.

Ormondville.

Mrs F. Whitmore Isitt arrived among us on May 31st to endeavour to form a branch of the W.C.T.U. On Monday evening here, and on Tuesday afternoon at Makatuku, she addressed small meetings. A gale was blowing and the cold was biting, which prevented the attendance of some who otherwise would have been present. But Mrs Isitt persevered. A drawing-room meeting was held at the Vicarage on the afternoon of the 2nd June, and the proposal to form a branch was submitted. Some discussion followed. Strong objections were raised, but all went away feeling interested. A final meeting was held on Thursday, June 3rd, when a branch was formed and officers were elected. Mrs Wills, President; Mrs Alexander, Treasurer; Miss Paterson, Secretary. Mrs Isitt is to be congratulated in having overcome great difficulties, and having formed a branch at the first district visited for the purpose.

Wellington.

On Thursday, 3rd inst., the meeting of the W.C.T.U. was well attended, several new members were received, and the Initiatory Service was used for the first time. Several plans of work were considered, and it is hoped that by next meeting they will be matured and acted upon.

Christchurch.

The fortnightly educational meeting was held on the last Wednesday in

May, when Mrs Newton gave a very interesting address on Plans of Work for the year. She briefly touched on each of the following subjects:—Drawing-room and Cottage Meetings; House to House Visitation, with Distribution of Suitable Literature; Band of Hope Work; Mothers' Meetings for Education in the Laws of Physiology and Health; Social Purity; and Dangers of C.D. Acts. Mrs Newton was listened to with attention. On June 9th a meeting was held, when six new members were received into the Union. It was reported that Mrs Barney's photo. was for sale at 1s 6d, application to be made to Mrs Venables, 240, South Belt. Mrs Sheppard was appointed Parliamentary Superintendent, and was also elected as delegate to the conference now being held on the new Local Government Bill. A sad case of need was reported, and the members undertook to collect a small sum each towards giving the desired assistance. Miss Roberts was appointed Band of Hope Superintendent, and offered to devote two evenings a week to visiting Bands of Hope, and giving addresses on Scientific Temperance. The Treasurer's balance-sheet showed a deficiency, and the question of ways and means is to be discussed at next meeting. It was announced that the Committee would meet on Wednesday, 23rd inst., at 2 p.m., an Educational meeting at 3 p.m.

Amberley.

The usual monthly meeting of the W.C.T.U. was held on the 5th of May. Nine members were present. The Secretary read letters received from the Secretaries of the Christchurch and Kaiapoi Unions re Mrs Barney's mission. It was resolved, "That as many members as possibly could would attend the meeting to be held in the Coffee Rooms, Kaiapoi." The Secretary was asked to convey the sympathy of the Union to our sister, Mrs Lawcock, in her recent trouble. The meeting for June takes place on the 12th, consequently will not be in time to be reported in the next issue of the WHITE RIBBON. Many members have lately been expressing a wish to have a visit from Mrs Munnings and Mrs Newton, and a resolution on the subject will be brought forward next meeting. We have been also discussing the advisability of forming a Girls' Sewing Class in connection with the Union, and disposing of the articles made, so that we could increase our funds, and thereby be enabled to procure literature, &c.

A resolution on this subject will also be discussed at the next meeting. Will the members please remember that the meetings are always held on the first Wednesday in the month, a misconception having arisen this time because the meeting was not announced in the churches through forgetfulness?

Auckland.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the W.C.T.U. took place yesterday afternoon in the Y.M.C.A. rooms, Mrs Schnackenberg presiding. Amongst those present were Mrs Hewitt, and native friends from Rotorua. In introducing the natives, Mrs Hewitt said she had been told it would be useless to work for temperance amongst the natives, as they were like children, and would soon forget her teaching; but she had found them most earnest and persevering. Rotorua was considered one of the worst places for drink, but during the two and a-half years they had been working over 300 pledges had been taken, and several Sunday-schools and Bible classes started. Two of those present had studied at Napier College, Atareta Ratema and Sophie Kerri. The former was president of the W.C.T.U. at Ohinemutu, having been chosen by the Maoris to fill that position. She is also the leader of the Bible class there, where 30 women and 50 children attend. Sophie Kerri was secretary of the Te Ngae branch, which they started with about 30 women. Mrs Puramati was the first president of the W.C.T.U. elected in Rotorua, and did good work there. She has removed to Auckland, and hopes to be of service amongst her own people here. After a short address from each, the Rev. Ratema gave a very earnest and interesting speech in Maori, which Mrs Schnackenberg interpreted. In consequence of Mrs Hewitt having to bear so much of the expense in this work, Mrs Davis proposed that a donation from the W.C.T.U. fund should be given, and a special collection taken that afternoon towards it. This was carried, and £2 15s 6d was presented.

Naseby.

A meeting open to non-members was held on Friday, May 7. Two new members were initiated. A short programme, consisting mainly of temperance items, was then proceeded with. Mrs McCosh Smith presided. During the month two cottage meetings have been held.

Greymouth.

We have just had a most delightful visit from Miss Kirk, who gave a series

of lectures here, which were most interesting and instructive. On Monday, May 10, the W.C.T.U. gave a reception to Miss Kirk in the vestry of the Wesleyan Church. The room was very tastefully decorated by several of the ladies. The Taylorville W.C.T.U. were invited to join us in welcoming Miss Kirk, which invitation several members accepted. A large number of friends and sympathisers also were present, as were the Rev Garlick (Wesleyan), Rev Stuart (Presbyterian), and Rev York (Anglican). Miss Kirk gave a short address, which was very much appreciated by those present. Her voice is so soft and sweet, and her words so well chosen, that they sink into the hearts of her hearers and compel sympathy. Several of those present also spoke a few words. After Miss Kirk's address the friends were regaled with afternoon tea, which was bountifully provided by the ladies of the W.C.T.U. The Taylorville friends left for home per 4.15 train, after having spent a most enjoyable time. As a result of the reception several ladies gave in their names as members, one of whom was initiated at our last meeting. As regards the other three days' mission, the afternoons of which were for ladies only, they were very well attended, great enthusiasm and interest being awakened. The evening meetings, which were mixed meetings, were also very well attended by the ladies, only a few of the lords of creation venturing to hear a lady lecture. But the absentees missed a treat, as those present declared they were well repaid by attending. Financially speaking, the mission cleared itself of all expenses, thereby showing the interest manifested in it. During her mission here Miss Kirk was the guest of our President (Mrs Gaskin), and in saying that we can truly say she was well entertained.

Kaiapoi.

On Tuesday, May 11th, we had the honour of a visit from Mrs Barney. In the afternoon a meeting was held at the Coffee Rooms, when Mrs Barney chose for her address our Lord's first appearance to a woman, commissioning her to tell the disciples that He was risen indeed. She also told us what a woman ought to be who wore a "bow of ribbon white." "She ought to be pure, consecrated, helpful and loyal." In the evening Mrs Barney gave an address in the Institute Hall to a well-filled house, Rev W. J. Gow (Presbyterian) presiding, the subject being Prison-work. Friends from

Amberley, Rangiora, and Woodend were present at the afternoon meeting. Mrs Barney's visit to Kaiapoi must be looked upon as a red-letter day by our Union, she being the first of our beloved leaders to pay us a visit, and we are sure that her loving words of encouragement will be the means of cheering and stimulating us all to greater efforts in the future. The monthly meeting was held on May 26th, and to our great sorrow our beloved President was absent in consequence of the illness of Miss Blackwell, Assistant Secretary. The following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this meeting expresses its heartfelt sympathy with Mrs Blackwell, President of this Union, upon the illness of her daughter, and her enforced absence, praying most earnestly that by God's blessing Miss Blackwell may soon be restored to health." A resolution was also carried expressing great regret at losing Mrs McKinsey. We solicit most earnestly the prayers of all White Ribboners on behalf of our much-beloved President and her daughter.

* WOMEN'S * SOCIETIES *

CANTERBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—This society decided to invite a conference for the purpose of discussing the Local Government Bill, the result being that delegates were sent from a number of local bodies. Mrs Wells, President of the convening body, was voted to the chair, and requested Mr Ell to introduce the business of the evening. Mr Ell pointed out that as the present Bill contained about 500 clauses it would be impossible to deal with it as a whole, and suggested that it should be dealt with under the following headings:—(1) Franchise; (2) Powers and Functions of Local Bodies; (3) Division of the Country.

After a great deal of discussion the following resolutions were passed:—(1) "That for the election of members of local bodies, the qualifications of electors be the same as for the election of members of the House of Representatives." (2) "That in voting for loans all persons of 21 years of age and over, having resided for 12 months in a district, be entitled to vote, and shall exercise one vote only." (3) "That all questions submitted to the voters be decided by a majority of those voting, and that to make a poll valid

it shall not be necessary that one-third of the persons enrolled must vote."

On June 3rd the Conference met for the second time. It was proposed that the better course would be to consider the question of the division of the country, after which they could better deal with the powers and functions of local bodies. This course was adopted, and, on the motion of Mr Hoare, it was resolved that, instead of the seven divisions proposed by the Bill of 1895, the following five should be adopted:—County, borough, rural district, urban district, and village. It was also decided to recommend that the number of County Councils should be not less than forty; that a district not exceeding four square miles in area, with a population of not less than 4000, should be entitled to be constituted a borough; that rural districts should not exceed nine square miles in area; that districts not exceeding two square miles in area, with a population of not less than 2000, should be entitled to be constituted urban districts; that a district of not less than 300 inhabitants may constitute a village under the Bill. The next meeting was fixed for the 18th June.

Notes of Convention

HELD RECENTLY IN PALMERSTON.

BY A DELEGATE FROM WELLINGTON W.C.T.U.

As it would be quite impossible to report all meetings fully, it seems to me best to give extracts from those subjects which most nearly concern us as women.

After much discussion, it was resolved to abolish the reduction vote from the ballot paper, and place the power of reduction in the hands of a committee, it being the opinion of Convention that the three issues were confusing to the electors.

In the discussion *re* the Colonial Option Poll, it was unanimously resolved that clubs be included.

At the public meeting held in the theatre, Sir Robert Stout, Mr T. E. Taylor, M.H.R., and Miss Ahier spoke, Sir Robert making a point of the fact that Nansen did not have any liquor during his travels, and would not allow his men to have any.

Miss Ahier, in her address, asked, "What are the women doing? Are they working against this evil to the utmost of their power?"

Mr Taylor pointed out that numbers of Christians voted for the Liquor

traffic, and urged all present to consider if the drink voted for by Christians did not do as much harm as that voted for by the trade.

Papers were read by Mrs Ostler and Miss Powell on the subject of "A more complete appropriation of the women's vote for No-license," both ladies showing clearly that education is greatly needed on this point. Nearly all present were agreed as to the advisability of asking ministers to observe two Temperance Sundays in the year.

The evening meeting was very good. Mr Yates, an hotel employé, came on the platform in response to an invitation, and spoke in a pleasant, straightforward manner, which won the respect of all. Many of us felt sorry for him, for what *can* a man say in defence of drink? Let us all join in the prayer that he may soon be won to the Lord, and so cease from helping to ruin others. Mr Taylor and Mr F. W. Isitt replied to Mr Yates, and pulled down his arguments without any difficulty. One remark made by Mr Isitt struck me as forcible, *i.e.*, that the reason we go for prohibition is because we are tired of providing an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff instead of placing a fence at the top. At both meetings Miss Sears sang two songs, which were much appreciated. It was pleasant to notice the spirit of enthusiasm and friendliness which ran through all the meetings. I am sure it would be impossible to lodge and entertain 137 delegates more comfortably than those at Convention were entertained. It seemed to me as if all Palmerston must be very much interested in our cause.

While the various speakers dwelt on the subject of Woman's Power, I felt as if we ought to add the "King's Daughters'" motto to our own:—"Look out, not in. Look forward, not back. Look up, not down, and lend a hand."

Evangelistic Department.

ITS OBJECT AND AIM.

This department is the most important of the many departments of our W.C.T.U. Its mission is to keep brightly burning the sacred fire which was kindled in the Crusade. When, under a mighty outpouring of the Divine Spirit, the Women's Christian Temperance Union was inaugurated and consecrated, its foundation stones were laid at the foot of the Cross. And we must definitely place Christ in the forefront, and claim Him as the only Saviour of men, and the source of power, strength, and goodness.

If our work is to be successful, we must pray for the vital spark, the power of the Holy Spirit. Our work can only be permanent and increasingly a power, as true spirituality grows in individual members. Our wish is to permeate the effort and undertakings of our W.C.T.U. with the Evangelistic spirit. Only as we have the Divine anointing can we fulfil our great mission to the world. The work which is not anointed with power from on high is gaged by God's standard a failure.

Soul as well as body must be fed with living bread. The problem before us is, how to reach those who are living in utter indifference to the best interests of their immortal souls.

Consciousness of the need of our service is greater than ever in view of the appalling mischief intemperance, and vice are working every day.

In the evangelistic work all can take a part, there are so many different lines of work to take up.

Would that all members would join in the "Noon-tide Prayers!" This is the golden chain which binds us as workers to each other and to God.

Let us as servants of the Lord but manifest our deep-toned faith in the principles we profess. Let us show that we are as certain that the gospel, as we believe it, shall have universal sway, as we are sure that the sun shall gild tomorrow's horizon.

Thou must be true thyself,
If thou the truth would'st teach.
Thy soul must overflow, if thou
Another's soul would reach.
It needs the overflow of heart
To give the lips full speech.

Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed.
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.—H. Bonar.

I will suggest a few plans of work, which I am sure some of you will be able to take up.

1st. That of prayer. We can all join in that, for it is the real secret of our strength. Those who pray do best of all—exercise the mightiest influence of all.

2nd. Visitation and Distribution of Gospel Literature. Members might visit say six or more families in their own localities, have a little talk about the temperance work and what is being done in the various departments connected with the W.C.T.U., and, if convenient, ask them to their house some afternoon for prayer and Bible reading. Where possible, every local Union

should hold a devotional meeting for the reinforcement of its members in spiritual strength and temperance enthusiasm.

3rd. Mothers' Prayer Meetings, where incidents of answered prayer might be given, which would gladden hearts and call forth praise and thanks to God.

4th. Wayside Service.—Evangelistic work means visiting the sick, also frequent meetings in prisons, jails, almshouses, efforts for the fallen women, work among children, factories, indeed meetings wherever a soul needs the Gospel.

I appeal to you dear sisters of the WHITE RIBBON, for your earnest endeavours in service for the Master.

Yours in the work,

M. KIRKLAND,
N.Z. Supt. Evangelistic Dept.



THE "NEW WOMAN."

She does not "languish in her bower,"
Or squander all the golden day
In fashioning a gaudy flower
Upon a worsted spray;
Nor is she quite content to wait
Behind her "rose-washed lattice pane,
Until beside her father's gate
The gallant prince draws rein."

The brave "New Woman" seizes to sigh,
And count it "such a grievous thing"
That year on year should hurry by
And no gay suitor bring;
In la'our's ranks she takes her place,
With skilful hands and cultured mind;
Not always foremost in the race,
But never far behind.

And not less lightly fall her feet
Because they tread the busy way;
She is no whit less fair and sweet
Than maids of olden days,
Who, gowned in samite and brocade,
Looked charming in their dainty guise.
But dwell like violets in the shade,
With shy, half-opened eyes.

Of life she takes a clearer view,
And through the press serenely moves,
Un'ettered, free; with judgment true
Avoiding narrow grooves,
She reasons and she understands;
And sometimes 'tis her joy and crown
To lift with strong yet tender hands
The burdens men lay down.

E. MATHESON.

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps says:—"When our bodies cease to be drugged into disease and sin, it is my personal impression that our souls will begin to stand a fair chance, perhaps not much before."

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—:O:—

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR ... Miss L. M. SMITH

TREASURER AND BUSINESS MANAGER :

MRS W. S. SMITH, 201, Hereford Street, Christchurch.

DISTRIBUTING DEPARTMENT MRS VENABLE.

The White Ribbon :

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1897.

Notes and Comments.

YOUR PAPER.—The pressure on our space still continues and our leading article is again crowded out. We are looking forward longingly to the time when our subscription list shall become so large as to warrant an increase in the size of the **WHITE RIBBON.**

This time would not be far off, if each one of our subscribers, or even those of them who are members of our Unions, would do a little canvassing for our paper.

Our business-manager reports a steady growth in the subscription list, but she adds that the larger number of new subscribers come from the small Unions. With one or two exceptions,

the larger Unions show great apathy in **WHITE RIBBON** matters.

*

A DEAD CALM.—The unpleasant conviction has been gradually stealing over us that the want of energy and enterprise shown by the larger Unions in connection with our paper is sadly indicative of a general lethargy that has pervaded the mother unions of this colony. What is the cause? Can it be that the **W.C.T.U.** spirit, the crusading spirit, is dying out in the centres and living only in the branches! We cannot believe it. While there is so much to be done, so many wrongs to be righted, it cannot be that the spirit of helpfulness and desire for work is dying out in the women of our large towns. What then is the cause? This we think is a question that every Union should set itself to answer. We have sometimes wondered (and we say it with fear and trembling) whether the principal Unions do not require an infusion of new blood, new members, new officers. There is a tendency, so long as things work smoothly, to go on in a jig-jog, routine sort of way. This is neither inspiring to members nor interesting to visitors, nor does it accomplish more than keeping the Union in existence.

*

WANTED—DYNAMITE.—We have just seen how in Australia the creeks and rivers previously dry suddenly became filled with running water. This peculiar phenomena has been attributed to recent earthquakes. We have wondered whether it would be possible to explode some intellectual and spiritual dynamite in our principal Unions, and cause currents of life-giving energy to flow along the dried-up channels of usefulness. We invite correspondence, short and pithy, on the subject of how to make the **W.C.T.U.** more actively useful.

*

DAWN IN THE PRISON.—For some years past there has been a growing desire for Prison Reform in this colony. The recent visit of Mrs Barney has given great impetus and strength to

this feeling. Her graphic description of the beneficial influence of women in the prisons of her own land aroused great public interest, and made many of us feel that something more than the recent appointments of police matrons is required. Mrs Cunningham, an official visitor to the Lyttelton Gaol, has issued a very interesting paper on "Our Female Prisoners," which we reprint in another column.

Her suggestion that a committee of women should be appointed by the Minister for Justice, to undertake the general management of the women's prison, is worthy of the consideration of the Unions. We are hopeful that some plan will be devised whereby united action may be taken by our Unions and Women's Societies, and we trust that in the meantime they will give the subject their earnest thought.

*

A NEW W.C.T.U. BRANCH.—Our readers will be glad to see in the "News of the Unions" that Mrs F.W. Isitt has been successful in establishing a new branch at Ormondville.

*

MISS KIRK.—In the "News of the Unions" it will be noticed that our Recording Secretary has been visiting the branches at Greymouth, Hokitika, and Brunnerton, where she was heartily welcomed and her visit much appreciated. Miss Kirk also went to Nelson, but we have no accounts from that city.

*

PROHIBITION IN THE KING COUNTRY.—The indignation meeting held in Christchurch on June 4, was a very crowded and enthusiastic one. The resolution against the illicit sale of liquor to the Maoris was seconded by Mr Reweti T Kohere, who, in a pathetic speech, asked, "What could be done? When the treaty of Waitangi was signed the Maoris gave over their bodies, land, and customs to the English. Now they cannot say whether they will have drink in their pahs or not. So-called Christian Europeans sat calmly by watching the Native race being devoured by the demon alcohol. Prohibition had been obtained in the Waikato district, but the law was not enforced. How could it be when the Government was aiming at the legalising of the traffic?" He closed a fine speech by saying that so long as the accursed thing was in the Waikato district they would fight it for ever and ever.

THE CAMBRIDGE SITUATION. — The absurdity of the supposed "friendly" report of the Syndicate in proposing to deny to women their fairly earned degrees, is a wide-spread topic for comment. It is recommended that women who have taken the B.A. shall be entitled, two years after the end of their course, to receive a "diploma" of M.A. It is also still demanded that women shall pass in honours before they receive the diploma, while men can take the same title for a mere pass.

One reason for denying women an equal reward with their brothers is to ensure that they shall have no say in College matters; no vote for an election. Five members of the syndicate proposed that a brand new set of titles should be invented for women only. Thus the women, though they in fact pass an examination far superior to that passed by most of the men who are M.A. and B.A., would not be recognised as having done so by the world at large?

What is the reason for all this? Is it prejudice, or is it selfishness. Is it fear of being outstripped in the race? In the name of British fairplay: *What is it?*

*

A LOYAL ADDRESS.—The National Council of the Women of New Zealand sent a loyal congratulatory address to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Record Reign. The address was printed in blue letters on white satin, with a back ground of blue plush. The whole was bound in New Zealand woods, in book form, and was forwarded by the San Francisco mail which left New Zealand in May.

*

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ENGLAND.—This Council sent a loyal address to Her Majesty. After the usual congratulations, one of the clauses referred to the fact that "the undertaking by women of unpaid public work on Boards of Guardians, School Boards, and Parish and District Councils, was bearing fruit in economy and efficiency, and in greater tenderness and care in the management of the young, the poor, the sick, and the aged." The Council petition that her Majesty would extend to women a still greater measure of legal protection, educational opportunities, and equality of civil rights. It also pleads for an enlargement of the area brought under the influence of women.

Our Female Prisoners.

(By E. W. CUNNINGTON.)

Of all our public institutions, her Majesty's Prison seems to be the only one that does not mould itself anew. This is not for lack of criticism cast upon it again and again from the public mind. It is the fashion nowadays to constantly discuss prisons, prisoners, and their much-needed reform; but it all ends, as it began, in talk. Experts, official and unofficial, are unanimous in declaring that the prison is a failure in everything except the strength of its walls and the honesty of its keepers.

Perhaps the awe-inspiring title, "Her Majesty's Prison," gives the place a dignity and a fearsomeness that protect it from the destroying touch of our modern reformers. They stand at a distance and talk, but to enter within those massive, bottle-spiked walls, to look round and see for themselves, day by day and year by year, just how the "penal system" works is farthest from their thoughts. I fail to see why this one out of all our public institutions, paid for, as it is, by the people's purse, and used for the people's safety, should be thus surrounded by such almost superstitious reverence and fear. The prison is simply one part of the huge social machine, and it belongs to us—the people—quite as much as does the hospital or the asylum.

Believing this to be the case, I feel myself fully justified in bringing before the consideration of the public a scheme of reform for the treatment of our female prisoners. Starting with the principle which is now fast growing—that the management of women should be largely in the hands of women—I point out the first mistake in our present prison system. We women are controlled by six bodies:—(1) Parliament, composed of men; (2) the Minister of Justice, a man; (3) the Inspector of Prisons, a man; (4) visiting justices, men; (5) the jailor, a man; and lastly, and very much least as regards any real power, the matrons, women. On the very face of it, this is an absurdity. To begin with, there are too many "cooks." The official tape which binds the prisoners' souls and bodies has too many knots in it, and to unravel and untie the least little thing needs too much fuss and fume.

The modern cry is classify in your prisons. Very good; but I also cry, simplify in your prisons. How shall we do it? Get rid of two managing bodies and of one unmanagable body.

Remove the visiting justices altogether; remove the gaoler; remove the lady official visitor, whom I term the "unmanagable body." She is not round and she is not square; she fits no hole; in short, she is simply a complication in the whole affair, and the sooner she is out of the prison the better for all parties. I make this difference, however, in her expulsion. I should ask her back again in a different and more useful capacity. The gentlemen, I feel very sure, will be glad to be rid of their positions on the female side of the gaol. They have plenty to do among the men. The men *are* their business; I emphatically assert that the women are *not*.

In the place, then, of the visiting justices, the gaoler, and the official lady visitor, I recommend a working committee of women appointed by the Minister of Justice and the Inspector of Prisons, with whom shall be entrusted the management of the prison, and the election, subject to the Inspector's approval of female warders. To make that committee truly representative there should be, say, one Romanist, one Anglican, two Secularists, and two Nonconformists. The positions should be absolutely honorary, and, needless to say, highly honourable. Change the name of the institution; call it a State Female Reformatory, and then let us try to make it worthy of the name.

Just notice in our hospitals and asylums how we surround the inmates with the health-giving agencies of fresh air, bright flowers, instructive and ennobling pictures, and then see with what scrupulous care we keep these good things from those whose moral nature is drooping and sick unto sin; how jealously we guard from their weary eyes the glimpses of God's earth and sky; how we deny to their bare, white-walled cells those very pictures with which we deck nursery and school-room; and yet modern thought tells us criminals are half-way between the child and the savage. O God! How stupid we are!

In the death of an old system, and the birth of a new life, pain and sorrow are inevitable; some must go and some must come, but the system that will best fit into the new conditions and requirements of society is the one that will survive in the end. The rigid, old-world penal system, adapted in its time to the old necessities, is not wanted now; we need not fear to let it go, and substitute a more expansive, a more elastic, and a more truly sensible arrangement.

A new prison system, worked in conjunction with a reformed criminal code, will not only be beneficial to the prisoners themselves, but it will enormously relieve the growing pressure thrown at present on the people's purse by the growth of the sectarian homes of rescue and refuge. We are now keeping up large female prisons to incarcerate a dozen women here and fifteen there, while the homes count their inmates by twenties up to a hundred. It is an absurdity. Either abolish female prisons altogether and commit the offenders to these voluntary homes, or place the prisons more in touch with the humanitarian and scientific ideas of the age. For my part I think the religious and philanthropic homes should receive only voluntary cases and work entirely on the free lines of love and persuasion, and the State should with a new reformatory system deal with the offenders against its laws and order. It must do one of two things—do its work properly and effectually, or leave it to others to perform. At present the whole question of dealing with our moral delinquents needs careful readjustment, or philanthropists and officials, Church and State, will overlap and stultify their mutual actions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

London, S.W.,
April 28, 1897.

Dear Editor,—I see in the WHITE RIBBON (Convention number) which has just reached me that the rejection of a Women's Franchise Bill in the House of Lords is reported as taking place "without even the form of a division," but no reason is given why the Bill was rejected in this summary manner, and your readers are left to infer that it was out of a spirit of pure hostility on the part of the House of Lords.

When your paper was issued the news could only have reached you by telegraph, and you may since then have given your readers ampler information, but in case not, allow me to assure you that we rely on many friends in the House of Lords. Many present peers have voted in our support in the House of Commons before their elevation to the peerage, but not one of these could have been expected to vote for the Bill so unadvisedly introduced on March 8.

The Women's Suffrage Societies

knew well that summary rejection must be the fate of a Bill asking the Lords to initiate legislation for altering the Constitution of the Commons. Such a bill must, in accordance with all constitutional precedents, be brought up from the Commons, and the Women's Franchise Bill in the Commons has not yet reached the stage for passage to the Lords.

The Societies therefore urged on Lord Templeton to withdraw his Bill, but their representations were unheeded. In consequence a wrong impression has been widely spread as to the attitude of the House of Lords.

I remain,
Faithfully yours,
HELEN BLACKBURN,
Hon. Sec.

Nat. Society for Women's Suffrage.

It will be remembered that at the recent Convention a letter from Miss Willard was read expressing great regret at the "failure" of the Temperance party at the Local Option Poll. The Corresponding Secretary, in accordance with instructions, sent Miss Willard a statement of the real position of affairs, in reply to which the following letter has just been received:—

Atlantic City, N.Y.,
19th April, 1897.

MY DEAR MISS POWELL,—Miss Willard and I are very grateful to you for your kind letter of the 16th of March, which gives a much more hopeful view of the situation in New Zealand regarding women's ballot in its relation to the local option vote. We are sending the facts you write us to the *Union Signal* and they will be most welcome to all our readers. We are also sending the good news to Lady Henry Somerset, who will wish to refer to it in her address before the annual meeting of her society, which comes next month.

Miss Willard joins me in every good wish and kind remembrance.

Yours ever sincerely,
ANNA D. GORDON.

DEAR WHITE RIBBON SISTERS,—Being unable this winter to write to the several Unions, I am addressing you through the medium of our WHITE RIBBON paper. I wish, as winter has arrived, to urge upon all the members of our Union the importance of relief work, as it is in winter that most need arises. Our Unions should do all in their power to help and cheer the sad and sorrowing, following the example of

Him "Who went about doing good"—
Heb. vi., 10-12.

I remain,
Yours in the work,

A. BLACKWELL,
N.Z. Superintendent Relief Work.
Kaiapoi, May 25, 1897.

HOBART, Tasmania.

DEAR EDITOR,—I promised you a brief summary of my visit in N.Z. for your paper. On the morning of April 22nd the s.s. *Maraposa* steamed into Auckland harbour, and before my foot touched the wharf I had a welcome, and found myself in charge of friends. The care and hospitality throughout my trip has been unbounded, and I have never for a moment felt myself among strangers.

The blessed bond of the white ribbon is more precious than ever, and I like to think more women are wearing it than before I came to the colony. "Oh, I haven't it on to-day, but I try to remember and wear it to the meetings," has often been the reply to my question, "Where is your white ribbon?" Dear sisters, our little *bow of white* is our badge the world over. It stands for *total abstinence, purity, and consecration*, and it is our *silent witness* that we have heard the Master's call and *answered* Him. It may seem a small thing to wear it always, but the Lord honours faithfulness in details, and if we are constant and faithful in witnessing, He will add to the number of witnesses until it shall come, by His blessing, to be an honour to be coveted by rich and poor to be known as *loyal White Ribboners*.

I have had such varied experiences, and such a variety of meetings, held in churches, halls, theatres, drawing-rooms, S.A. barracks, Rescue Home, charitable institutions, prisons, etc.; have spoken Sunday mornings in pulpits; addressed Sunday-schools, and teachers' meetings; visited police stations; spoken along the lines of prevention, rescue, and reform; interviewed officials; called on invalids; knelt with the "two or three," and had a good time generally. Have had some of the most lovely and loving things done for me, both in the homes where I have been entertained and by the *wayside*, where friends, who had been previously notified by those who know how to give pleasure, met me at stations, once at that early hour at New Plymouth, with that never-to-be-forgotten hot breakfast, and at other times with fruit, flowers, and lunch given with earnest hand clasps and kind words.

I am sure the World's Union means more to us all for the blessed interchange of courtesies which we have known, and I shall carry away a host of pleasant memories, the only regret being that I cannot stay longer and do more. The 24th of May, the Queen's Birthday, was to be my last in Invercargill, and it was celebrated by the decision of the W.C.T.U. to inaugurate their prevention and rescue work by opening "The Victoria Home." It had long been a recognised need and God's time had seemed to come. May He abundantly bless the work and workers, and give them precious lives redeemed from the bondage of neglect, hardship and sin. On the 25th I went under escort of my hostess to the Bluff, expecting to sail by noon on the *Macarua*, but evidently my work was not quite done, for departure was delayed, and I had an opportunity to talk up the W.C.T.U. with an earnest hearted woman, and I believe the Invercargill Union will help to organise at once. Also met a bright friend from Stewart Island, and think our work might be started there. Then came some officers from the Salvation Army with invitation to speak for them in the evening, and despite the storm a full hall greeted us. In the morning found myself sailing away on the roughest sea with a terrible strain on my principles, *never* to be seasick. However it would be worth going over again for the sake of meeting the dear friends of the last month. Have spoken 49 times, travelled the length of the Colony, had all my expenses paid and something over for future contingencies. If only the Executive Committee can give me a superintendent of my department, who could advocate and push lines of reform which have been suggested, I am sure New Zealand might easily take its place in the very front of our W.C.T.U. ranks. The time is ripe; prisons are in process of erection, and provision could readily be made for educational and reformatory measures.

Who is the woman, with consecration, tact, and an outlook for the whole colony? I am sure the Lord has her in reserve. May He quickly call her out, and give a special anointing for this service.

With love to every White Ribboner, from the President to the humblest member—whether I have met them or not—I am yours, "For God and Home and Every Land,

MRS J. K. BARNEY.

Photograph of Mrs Barney.

OUR W.C.T.U. members throughout New Zealand will be glad to know that an artistically mounted photograph of Mrs Barney can be had, price 1s 6d. Post free, on application to Mrs Venables, 240 South Belt, Christchurch. The photograph was executed by Mr W. E. Sorrell, photographer, Christchurch. It is a "speaking" likeness, and has the soft tone which platino-type always gives. Will all who wish for copies kindly send orders to Mrs Venables at once.

Miss Willard a Christian Socialist.

IN the *Union Signal* for April 15 Miss Willard writes:—"If it is not known to 'our folks' it ought to be that I am a Christian Socialist (as are Ruskin, Tolstoi, William D. Howells, Prof. Geo. Herron, only I am heart and soul a Prohibitionist besides). I believe that by evolution, not by revolution, it will come about some day that the tools of production, transportation, etc., will be owned by the people, and that everybody will do some physical work each day, which will result (as I humbly believe and fervently hope) in the adequate employment of everybody to the incalculable improvement of the public health."

A Demoralised Army.

SAYS the "New Age":—"The Indian Army is utterly demoralised, so we are assured. No doubt the condition of affairs is bad enough, but there is just a suspicion that a diabolical conspiracy is afoot to get Parliament to sanction the re-enactment of certain Acts, or to take some other steps to regulate vice. It behoves all who believe that righteousness alone exalteth to be on the alert. Under no pretence whatever must this conspiracy, if it exists, be permitted to succeed. There is only one way to counteract the evil, and that is to destroy the system of military service of which it is the inevitable product. If we must have soldiers let us at least insist that the men shall be at liberty to marry as freely as other men are. We can well believe that such an idea will be regarded as preposterous by the "military authorities," to whom marriage, by the way, is not denied by the

conditions of their service, but these gentlemen must be told that if they cannot organise an army of men living natural lives, we must find officers who can, and that in no case will we tolerate a return to the old system of "regulation."

THE London School Board has decided to furnish sewing-machines to twenty-five evening continuation schools where dress making is taught.

THE WHITE RIBBON is the official organ of the N.Z.W.C.T. Unions. It also advocates all that makes for the true advancement of women.



* THE HOME. *

Health.

BEING A PAPER READ BY MRS A. WELLS, OF CHRISTCHURCH, AT THE RECENT SESSION OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND.

I.—THE EVIL EFFECTS OF DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

(Continued).

"The truth is," says Dr. Johnson again "that in the treatment of chronic diseases at least the administering of drugs is pure speculation. There is nothing certain in the matter but the certainty of doing mischief." A late writer on the Medical Registration Bill quotes the testimony of many medical practitioners regarding their system. Dr Paris says: "The file of every apothecary would furnish a volume of instances where the ingredients of the prescription were fighting in the dark." Dr Billing says: "I visited the different schools of medicine, and the students of each hinted, if they did not assert, that the other sects killed their patients." Sir A. Cooper declared "that the science of medicine was founded on conjecture and improved by murder." Knighton says: "Medicine seems one of those ill-fated arts which bears no proportion to its antiquity" Abernethy said: "There has been a great increase of medical men of late years, but, upon my life, diseases have increased in proportion."

Dr Trall said with regard to medicine in the present century: "The historian will observe a learned profession adorned with as bright a galaxy of names, scholars, philosophers, and philanthropists as any profession in

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any age of the world could ever boast, devoting themselves with a zeal and industry worthy of all praise to the study and practice of medicine, yet having no confidence at all in their own system, and, stranger still, wondering and complaining that the great masses of the people have no confidence in it." He points out truly how the collateral medical sciences - anatomy, chemistry, and operative surgery - have during the last 50 years been advancing by leaps and bounds. Pathology has been assiduously studied, physiology also, but in the words of Bostock, "so far as the practice of medicine is concerned the benefit is rather in anticipation than in existence."

Dr Trall further points out the reason why this is so: "The only foundation of a true medical practice is correct physiological principles; and here is precisely where the whole orthodox medical system of the present day fails. It has no physiological science upon which to practise truly the healing art."

Majendie, a great physiologist, asserts: "There is scarcely a sound physiological principle extant." That is "not in the medical world," says Dr. Trall. "Out of the regular profession this science has been more prosperous. Untrammelled by the theories of the schools individuals have demonstrated the true science of life and laid the true foundations for a medical practice whose most powerful remedies, so far from being the most potent poisons known on the surface or dug from the bowels of the earth, are the very agencies by which the whole vegetable and animal creations are developed and sustained."

Yet one more indictment, and "this the saddest; for as a result of the drug treatment an entirely new set of di-

seases has sprung up among mankind, which have regularly taken their place among other human maladies, and are classed together as drug diseases, each named after the drug that produces it, and medical men talk familiarly about mercurial tremor, mercurial erythema, arsenical disease, iodism, narcotism, as though these disorders were inflicted by Providence instead of by their own malpractices."

Well may the disheartened patient inveigh against "vicious specialisation."

II. — HYDROPATHIC TREATMENT OF DISEASES.

It is wonderful how hard it is to eradicate custom when custom has become law, and how almost impossible it is to gain a hearing for new truths. Hence the difficulty of inducing people to use natural remedies. "Now the principles of the practice of hydropathy are in unison with the great principles of nature and the great general principles of disease," says Dr Trall. It begins by investigating the causes of disease and surrounding the patient with the causes of health, which it intensifies and concentrates into one focus.

It does not consider disease as a positive entity, but as a negative quantity, nor does it tinker the human body nor mend it with patches. It considers the conditions of the body in disease, the causes against which all remedial efforts are to be directed, which are, in general terms, impure blood, unhealthy secretions, obstructions in the capillary vessels, excessive action in some parts or organs, with deficient action in others; unequal temperature. The general indications are to remove obstructions, wash away impurities, supply healthful nutriment, regulate temperature, relax intensive,

and intensify torpid action; and water, with its concomitants air, light, food, temperature, answers these indications. It corrects the nutritive actions. It raises or depresses the circulation and respiration at will. It exercises complete control over absorption. It has power to excite the action of the skin to an almost unlimited extent. In all this, however, we must remember that nature is the true physician. All that the healing art can do is to supply favourable conditions, remove extraneous materials, and regulate hygienic influences, and thus place the system as fully as possible under organic law. Now, when one remembers that the pores if placed end on end would reach 28 miles one may well believe that if this tube be obstructed so that impure substances are unable to get out of the blood, and the pure substance which it is intended to convey into the blood be kept out of it there will ensue a very unhealthy state. The skin is well known to be a respiratory organ, taking into the body and carrying out of it similar matters, which are taken in and carried out by the lungs in the act of breathing. It exercises, moreover, a powerful influence over the chemical and vital changes proper to the bloods and to the solids. These changes are directly influenced by the temperature at the surface of the body. Nature, the moment there is danger of too great internal heat, opens the pores of the skin and so prevents the accumulation of heat by sending it out of the body as perspiration. When there is danger of internal temperature being lowered, the activity with which the elements of the body are composed and decomposed is augmented, so that as fast as heat is abstracted from the surface it is supplied again by fresh heat generated within.

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WHOLESALE AND FAMILY WAREHOUSE.

B. HALLENSTEIN, Chairman of the Company.

E. C. BROWN, Manager.