

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## Sally Ann's Experience.

The following quaintly-told story was published in the *Boston Woman's Journal* of Oct 15. We regret that space forbids our re-printing it in full, but by giving our readers a short sketch of the introductory part which leads up to "Sally Ann's Experience," we can publish the principal portion of it in our December and January issues. Aunt Jane, who tells the "experience" to a friend (beaming on her the while over her silver rimmed spectacles), had been "rum-magin' around up in the garret" all the morning to find pieces wherewith to make a patchwork quilt, and the reminiscences which arose at sight of one of these—a piece of black and white calico given to her by Sally Ann Flint—are told in a forceful and graphic way, humour and pathos being equally in evidence. Forty years ago, she said, the church wanted a new roof, and as the men folk had got it done, the women of the Mite Society thought that they would supply a carpet to cover the bare floor. They had a sum of money by them, twelve dollars, which at first they intended for foreign missions, but afterwards they decided to get a carpet instead. On

proceeding to appoint a committee to select the carpet, the treasurer—'Lizabeth Taylor—announced with pale face and trembling lips that the twelve dollars which she had kept in a drawer

of their members, strongly advised, for the credit of the Mite Society, that nothing should be said of the matter outside. This was agreed to, but one of the women, Milly Amos, who had only been married two months, broke her promise, and told her husband, who spread the rumour abroad.

"Well," said Aunt Jane, "'Lizabeth never showed her face outside her door for more 'n a month afterwards, an' a more pitiful lookin' creatur' you never saw than she was when she came out to prayer-meetin' the night Sally Ann give her experience." Parson Page, she went on to relate, had prayed a prayer, and then called on the brethren to say anything they might feel called on to say concerning their experience in the past week.

Old Uncle Jim had cleared his throat to tell how precious the Lord had been to his soul, just as he had done every Wednesday for the past twenty years, but 'Lizabeth walked down the aisle before he could begin, stopped in front of the pulpit, and made her confession. She had taken the twelve dollars. Her only daughter by a former marriage lay dying at Louisville. She had begged Jacob, her husband, over and over again to give her the money to go



MRS MÜLLER [See "Our Illustration."]

at home had vanished. She could not account for the circumstance, but promised to make the amount good very soon. Consternation ensued, but Sally Ann Flint, one of the most prominent

to her, but he refused, and she said to herself in her agony, "I'm goin' anyhow." While dressing before leaving home, she opened this special drawer and there lay the money. In the next drawer were a pair of candlesticks which had belonged to her mother, and for which a lady had offered her fifteen dollars, whenever she chose to sell them. Here, then, was her opportunity. She would use the twelve dollars to go to her dying daughter, and refund the money by the sale of the candlesticks before it was required. "I got to Mary," she said, "two hours before she died, and she looked up in my face and says 'Mother, I knew God wouldn't let me die till I'd seen you once more.'" After the funeral she sent to the lady who offered her the money for the candlesticks, but she had gone from home, and although she sent a cheque for the amount the very day she returned, it was not in time to save the exposure from taking place.

"God only knows what I've suffered," said Elizabeth, "but if I had to do it over again, I believe I'd do it. Mary was the only child I had in the world, and I had to see her once more before she died. I've been a member of this church for twenty years," she continued, "but I reckon you'll have to turn me out now."

From this point the story is re-printed as written.)

"The pore thing stood there tremblin' and holding out the cheque as if she expected somebody to come and take it. Old Silas Petty was glowerin' at her from under his eyebrows, and it put me in mind of the Pharisees and the woman they wanted to stone, and I recollect thinkin', 'Oh, if the Lord Jesus would jest come in and take her part!' And while we all set there like a parcel o' mutes, Sally Ann got up and marched down the middle aisle and stood right by 'Lizabeth. You know what funny thoughts people will have sometimes.

"Well, I felt so relieved. It popped into my head all at once that we didn't need the Lord after all, Sally Ann would do jest as well. It seemed sort o' like sacrilege, but I couldn't help it.

"Well, Sally Ann looked all around as composed as you please and says she, 'I reckon if anybody's turned out o' this church on account o' that miserable little money, it'll be Jacob and not 'Lizabeth. A man that won't give his wife money to go to her dyin' child is too mean to stay in a Christian church anyhow; and things is come to a pretty pass in this State, when a woman, that

had eight hundred dollars when she married, has to go to her husband and git down on her knees and beg for what's her own. Where's that money 'Lizabeth had when she married you?' says she, turnin' round and lookin' Jacob in the face. 'Down in that ten-acre medder lot, ain't it?—and in that new barn you built last spring. A pretty elder you are, ain't you? Elders don't seem to have improved much since Susannah's times. If there ain't one sort o' meanness in 'em it's another,' says she. Goodness knows what she would 'a' said, but just here old Deacon Petty rose up. And says he, 'Brethren,' and he spread his arms out and waved 'em up and down like he was goin' to pray—'brethren, this is awful! If this woman wants to give her religious experience, why,' says he, very kind and condescendin', 'of course she can do so. But when it comes to a woman standin' up in the house of the Lord and revilin' an elder as this woman is doin', why, I tremble,' says he, 'for the church of Christ. For don't the Apostle Paul say, "Let your women keep silent in the church"?' "

"As soon as he named the 'Postle Paul, Sally Ann give a kind of snort. Sally Ann was turrible free-spoken.

When Deacon Petty said that she jest squared herself like she intended to stand there till judgment day, and says she, "The 'Postle Paul has been dead rather too long for me to be afraid of him. And I never heard of him app'intin' Deacon Petty to represent him in this church. If the 'Postle Paul don't like what I'm sayin', let him rise up from his grave in Corinthians or Ephesians, or wherever he's buried, and say so. I've got a message from the Lord to the men-folks of this church, and I'm goin' to deliver it, Paul or no Paul," says she. 'And as for you, Silas Petty, I ain't forgot the time I dropped in to see Maria o' e Saturday night and found her washin' out her flannel petticoat and dryin' it before the fire. And every time I've had to hear you lead in prayer since then I've said to myself, "Lord, how high can a man's prayers rise towards heaven when his wife ain't got but one flannel skirt to her name? No higher than the back of his pew, if you'll let me tell it." I knew jest how it was,' said Sally Ann, 'as well as if Maria'd told me. She'd been having the milk and butter money from the old roan cow she'd raised from a little heifer, and just because feed was scarce, you'd sold her off before Maria had money enough to buy her winter flannels. I

can give my experience, can I? Well, that's just what I'm a-doin',' says she: 'an' while I'm about it,' says she, 'I'll give in some experience for 'Lizabeth and Maria an' the rest of the women who, betwixt their husbands an' the 'Postle Paul, have about lost all the gumption and grit that the Lord started them out with. If the Postle Paul,' says she, 'has got anything to say about a woman workin' like a slave for twenty-five years an' then havin' to set up an' wash out her clothes on Saturday night so's she can go to church clean Sunday mornin' I'd like to hear it. But don't you dare to say nothin' to me about keepin' silence in the church. There was times when Paul says he didn't know whether he had the spirit of God or not, an' I'm certain that when he wrote that text he wasn't no more inspired than you are, Silas Petty, when you tell Maria to shut her mouth.'

"Job Taylor was settin' right in front of Deacon Petty, and I reckon he thought his time was comin' next; so he gets up, easy-like, with his red bandanna to his mouth, an' starts out. But Sally Ann headed him off before he'd gone six steps, an' says she, 'There ain't nothin' the matter with you, Job Taylor; you set right down an' hear what I've got to say. I've knelt an' stood through enough o' your long-winded prayers, an' now it's my time to talk an' yours to listen.'

"An' bless your life, if Job didn't set down as meek as Moses, an' Sally Ann lit right into him. 'An' ' says she, 'I reckon you're afraid I'll tell some o' your meanness, ain't you? An' the only thing that stands in my way is that there's so much to tell I don't know where to begin. There ain't a woman in this church,' says she, 'that don't know how Marthy scrimped and worked and saved to buy her a new set o' furniture, and how you took the money with you when you went to Cincinnati the spring before she died, an' come back without the furniture. An' when she asked you for the money you told her that she and everything she had belonged to you, and that your mother's old furniture was good enough for anybody. It's my belief,' says she, 'that's what killed Marthy. Women are dyin' every day, an' the doctors will tell you it's some new-fangled disease or other, when, if the truth were known, it's nothin' but wantin' somethin' they can't get, an' hopin' an' waitin' for somethin' that never comes. I've watched 'em an' I know. The night before Marthy died she says to me,

"Sally Ann," says she, "I could die a heap peacefuller, if I jest knew the front room was fixed upright with a new set of furniture for the funeral." An' Sally Ann p'inted her finger right at Job, an' says she, 'I said it then, an' I say it now to your face, Job Taylor, you killed Marthy the same as if you'd taken her by the throat and choked the life out of her.'"

*To be concluded.*

## BOOK NOTICE.

### The Romance of the Earth.\*

BY PROFESSOR BICKERTON.

If I wished briefly to impress a youth or maiden with the vastness of the mines of knowledge to be explored—knowledge concerning things "above, around, and in us"—the little book now before me would, I think, be chosen as my chief agent.

Beginning with such well-known phenomena as the motions of the earth, and the effects thereby caused, the author glides, in easy flowing language, to that collision of two bodies which gave birth to our solar system. Next are pictured the changes through which our globe passed till from a gaseous mass it became comparatively solid, and cool enough in places to permit of the development of plant life. One gains, too, an idea of the awful convulsions, and of the epochs of rest, that have resulted in ocean and continent, in lake and mountain, and in the marvels of the coal measures and other formations. The mighty part played by snow and ice in the configuration of the globe and in the distribution of animal and vegetable life is also clearly brought before us.

The problem of the origin of life is confessedly as yet a sealed book. "While I would be the last to say that certain knowledge regarding the origin of life cannot possibly be attained, I think that as yet we have not even found the road which is likely to lead to its discovery." ". . . Of the two entities, matter and energy, we know both to be indestructible."

Botany—the mysteries and marvels of plant life—is touched upon; then animal life, with all the wonderful complexity of the human frame, is dealt with. And then, still progressing, the evolution of the mental and moral qualities is pictured.

In the latter part of the book social and moral questions, concerning the

development of the race, are chiefly under consideration. "Our present ethic—the ethic of property—is Satanic in its influence." "Two hours a day of well-organised labour would suffice to supply mankind with every essential of existence." "A discontent—most truly termed divine—surges through all humanity; no longer do even the wealthy rest in the secured serenity of selfish ease; supine indifference is recognised guilt, for—after all these centuries—the question of Cain has answered itself. . . . By many, the present is felt to be the final struggle of man's chrysalis condition before he shall emerge from the unsightly husk of self that has so long imprisoned him, and, clothed in altruism, shall stand erect in the sunshine of joy, breathing the sweet, strong air of liberty."—*Vesta.*



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

### Christchurch.

THE Executive met twice since the last report, to settle up matters connected with the tent on the Show Grounds, which enterprise had resulted very successfully, both financially and otherwise. The Coffee-room Committee recommended the Union to accept an offer to exchange from the up-stairs room in Gloucester street Coffee-rooms to the ground flat as being more convenient in every way. The Union resolved to act on the recommendation. Mrs Blackwell and Mrs Soulby were present from Kaiapoi to discuss matters connected with the next Annual Convention. Mrs Isitt made short but interesting remarks on the Book of Nehemiah, after which, afternoon tea was dispensed.

### Dunedin.

The annual meeting was held on December 6th. The Secretary's report of work done during the past year was received with approbation. Reports of work done in connection with Sailors' Rest, Gospel Temperance, and Mothers' Sewing Meetings were also most encouraging. The late Sale of Work realised £63. Special mention was made of two flags presented by Miss Bannerman's Sewing Class. The Bible circle conducted by Mrs Bannerman and Mrs Borrowes had also forwarded a donation of £1 5s to Sailors Rest.

A vote of sincere sympathy with Mrs W. D. Stewart was passed and mention made of the help the late Mr Stewart had given in the Franchise movement, and of his kindly sympathy with every good cause. Special thanks were passed to the editors of both local papers for the space they had always given to reports of Union work. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Hodges (sec.), and another member of Port Chalmers Union. During the afternoon refreshments were kindly provided by one of the members.

### Greymouth.

Our annual meeting was held on Dec 8th. The reports of the various branches of work were read and approved. The Hospital has been visited, and the boats, and box placed in railway station have been fully supplied with literature. Prayer meetings have also been held. During the year two of our members have passed to the life beyond.

### Devonport.

Our monthly meeting was well attended, notice having been given that the election of officers for the ensuing year would take place. The Initiatory Service was read for the induction of a new member, the other members standing during the time of reading. We were pleased to have Miss Brown, the City of Auckland President, with us, and the Union benefited by her helpful remarks. White badges were on the table and several of the members who had not heretofore considered the wearing of the badge to be of importance donned it for the first time.

### Blenheim.

During the month special meetings were held for making arrangements in connection with the luncheon and refreshment booth at the A. and P. Show, and it was decided to enlarge the tent. During the Show the tent was thronged with guests, and the many helpers were kept busily engaged. The tent is very highly appreciated by the public in general, and the financial returns were very satisfactory.

### Naseby.

Since last report a missionary meeting has been held at Mrs Malcolm's, when readings were given by Mesdames Maclatchy and Malcolm and Miss McCarthy. A cottage meeting was held at Mrs. Stephens, and a very pleasant and profitable evening was spent at Mrs Ladd's, when the subject taken

\*Bickerton Brothers, Christchurch, N.Z., price 2s.

up was "Doctor's Testimonies regarding Alcohol" Mrs Ladd read, "A Plea for the Children." A report appeared in the local paper. The gambling evil was also discussed. On Dec. 2nd, the annual election of officers took place. The result will appear in the annual report.

### Napier.

Since our last report, drawing-room meetings and "afternoon teas" have been held at the residences of Mesdames Glendening, Natusche, Clarke (vicarage), Robert Saunders Shirley, Cotteral, Armstrong, C. Saunders, and Maysons. At each of the gatherings Mrs S. B. Brown gave an address. Since taking up this branch of work 14 meetings have been held, at which 155 women have been addressed, and a quantity of temperance literature distributed. It has been decided to hold a quarterly meeting at Taradale.

### Colyton,

At the meeting held on Nov 24 correspondence from the different departments was read and discussed. It was decided to set apart fifteen minutes for prayer at the beginning of each meeting. A very instructive paper, by the Rev Dr Brown, on the Evils of Intemperance, was read by Mrs Frank Brown.

### Wellington.

The Annual Meeting was held on the 1st December, and was well attended.

The report of the year's work was read and adopted. It showed good work had been done in several departments—Evangelistic, Cottage Visiting, Hospital Visiting, and Drawing Room Meetings.

Excellent papers on various subjects have been read and discussed. Our White Ribbon agent has worked indefatigably.

### Auckland.

At our meeting on 16th Nov a resolution was passed expressing regret at the loss occasioned by the death of Mr. G. M. Reed, who had in many ways proved to be a friend to our Union and kindred societies. A very hearty welcome was given to Mrs Hutchinson, of Australia, and she was called upon to give an address upon her work—"Rescue Work,"—as carried out under the auspices of the Salvation Army. The speaker urged the need for greater efforts in preventive work. Two new members were initiated. At our meeting on 23rd November, a resolution was passed to the effect that a fund be started to provide a memorial of the

late Mr. G. M. Reed. It was thought that a small drinking fountain, with marble tablet, in some public part of the city, would be a most fitting memorial. Mrs Mitchell was appointed to write to other societies with a view to securing their assistance in this effort. It was decided to send to America by next mail the £17 collected for the Temple fund. Mrs Kirby attended to receive donations collected for stone to the memory of Mrs. Kerr, the amount being £1. The annual meeting was postponed until December 14th, on account of members wishing to assist in Mayoral election on the day previously appointed.

### Turakina.

At the meeting held on Dec. 1st, the chief business was the annual election of officers. Correspondence *re* Juvenile Depravity was read, and it was thought desirable to petition Parliament in connection with same. Mrs J. P. Lethbridge was thanked for her efforts in connection with the L.T.L., and as she expects to leave the district shortly it was decided to ask Mrs G. J. Bruce to carry on the work.

### Auckland.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION. — The meeting on Nov. 15th was one of special interest, taking the form of a debate on "Is Prohibition Advisable?" The debate was opened by Mr. E. Rhodes against, and Miss Powell for, Prohibition. A good deal of discussion followed on both sides, the general decision being in favour of it. The closing meeting of the session was on November 29th, when the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President, Miss Hughes; Vice-Presidents, Miss Dewar and Mr Chappell; Recording Secretary, Miss A. Duffus; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Rhodes; Treasurer, Miss May; Correspondent to WHITE RIBBON, Miss A. Duffus; Reporter to Press, Mr Rhodes. It was arranged to get up a picnic early in the year to raise funds; it was also decided to go into recess until the first week in March.

IF I could destroy to-morrow the desire for strong drink in the people of England, we should see our taxes reduced by millions sterling. We should see our gaols and workhouses empty. We should see more lives saved in twelve months than are consumed in a century of bitter and savage war.—*Right Hon Joseph Chamberlain.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### MRS JUDKINS ON THE RESULT OF WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

DEAR MADAM,

Being a Dunedinite, I feel for the honour of the women of my city I must not let Mrs Judkins' remarks as published in your last month's issue go unchallenged. First, then, let me reply to the remarks *re* the putting into Parliament "men of questionable reputation." Can anyone dare to throw a stone at Mr M. J. S. McKenzie or Mr A. Sligo? The reason why I have mentioned them by name is that I know them best, and the others I think could stand the test, although I am not personally acquainted with any of them. Then again, in the matter of the "No License" question. I will tell you exactly what happened in my own case, and I know that this was only one out of many. I went to vote early in the morning, and was given *one* paper only. Being pretty well used to the voting business now, I filled that in (the one for Representatives), and then walked to the man in charge and asked if we did not vote for Local Option as well that day, to which he answered "yes." "Well, then," I asked, "where is my paper, "didn't you get it," was the reply, and on my answering in the negative he gave me the voting paper for Local Option and of course I voted for "No License." This happened not only in my case, but in several others, and was reported to the Returning Officer with threats that if he did not put a stop to it, the election would be upset. But how many women voted, and men too, before the matter was put a stop to, we do not know, suffice it to say that the Temperance party were confident of gaining at least reduction if not prohibition, as we were given to understand that the votes, if not carrying the latter, would count towards the former very desirable object. You can imagine our disappointment and dismay when we found the result of the election was not in any way in our favour. Comment is needless. When letters appeared in our daily papers drawing attention to the matter, they were promptly answered by the opposition party who declared that there must have been a mistake, and that every man and woman got their proper papers. I answered these letters stating the case exactly as I

have done to you, and signed my own name. As I am very well known in the city, I think it may have had a little weight with our own people, and the other side *did not* contradict me in any way. Comment again is needless. I cannot agree with Mrs Judkins that the granting of the franchise means a double vote to the man if he is married. Women are beginning to think more for themselves now, and they are wise enough to keep their own counsel, and also to vote for that which is likely to be for their good. I am sure we shall see a very different state of things next election, but we must be up and doing during the intervening months, and cease not to bring up in its true colours before the eyes and ears of mothers, sisters, wives and sweethearts, the evil of the accursed drink traffic.

E. M. STATHAM,

Sec. Dunedin W.C.T.U.

### 12 O'CLOCK LICENSES FOR DEVONPORT.

DEAR MADAM,—After the *sub-rosa* manner in which Auckland City obtained its 11 o'clock licenses, it was to be expected that the suburbs would be on the alert and not be caught napping in a similar manner. A small advertisement appeared last week stating that the Licensing Committee would sit in the Council Chambers on Monday, December 5, to receive applications for renewal of licenses for Devonport; then on Saturday somebody discovered that the publicans of the place intended petitioning for extension of hours, from 10 to 12 o'clock. The news quickly spread through this usually quiet little suburb, and very soon the W.C.T.U. was on the war-path. Counter petitions were type written and delivered to the ministers on the Shore, all of whom are in full sympathy with the temperance cause. Having only Sunday to obtain signatures, some of the forms were placed in each Church Vestry or vestibule. The ministers enjoined from the pulpit the need of immediate action, the result being a hearty response, some three or four hundred signatures being obtained in this way, besides a house to house canvass by enthusiastic workers, few objecting to sign. A thoroughly representative deputation will wait upon the Committee on Monday morning. The Mayor of Devonport will take charge of the petition. I will wire result in time for your next issue, but we have little fear as to the result,

owing to the energetic manner in which the W.C.T.U. got everything into training.

Yours truly,  
ALICE MALCOLM,  
Pres. Devonport W.C.T.U.

DEAR MADAM,

The increase of juvenile depravity has been causing us a great deal of anxiety of late, and the matter having been discussed in our Union, it has been suggested that a bell should be rung at an early hour every evening, at which time it would be required that all children under a certain age should return to their homes. This plan has been adopted in many American towns, and has been found to work most beneficially.

We have thought that the best way to put this plan into execution is for the different Unions to unite in sending a petition to Parliament.

It is, of course, too late to do anything this session, but we shall be glad if the Unions will discuss the matter at their meetings in order that we may act unanimously next year.

If the Unions are willing to join with us, or can suggest any better plan, we shall be glad if they will communicate with us as soon as possible.

Yours in the work,

(MISS) S. TWEMLOW,  
Secretary W.C.T.U.,  
Nith Street,  
Invercargill.

Gisborne, Nov. 23, 1898.

DEAR MADAM,

Can you spare me space to say that I shall be glad to receive orders for Mrs Stanton's beautiful "Eighty Years and More." The book costs 8s, plus postage, but if five, or any multiple of five, be ordered by our Council, the publisher generously offers them for 6s, post free. On receipt, therefore, of 30s for five copies, or even of 6s for one, I shall order and forward post free to any address in New Zealand. In the latter case, however, there may be some delay, as the order for five must first be filled in.

Yours, etc.

M. H. SEVWRIGHT,  
Corresponding Secretary National  
Council of Women of New Zealand.

### CONSTRUCTION OF THE BIBLE.

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to bring before our readers a few thoughts in answer to Miss Powell's letter of page 9 of the October number.

Miss Powell says, "I certainly believe man compiled the Book of Genesis." Believing a testimony does not make that testimony true if it is not so. The question here is, "What does God say?" The Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking of the Word of God, as given to Israel, said, "The Scripture cannot be broken." And the Spirit of God, through the Prophet Isaiah, said, "To the Law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." From the earliest days the Law (the *Torah*) was the name for the five books of Moses. It is not the translations that were inspired, but the original Scriptures.

Miss Powell refers to quotations from the Psalms in Acts 2 and Hebrews 2 as varying from the words in our own Old Testament Scriptures. The quotations were from the Septuagint version, whereas our Old Testament is translated direct from the Hebrew, but the sentiment is in strict accord. Should two German writers translate the Pilgrim's Progress into their own tongue, the expressions would often be different, but the work would be still that of the immortal dreamer, and the lessons taught would be the same.

How can it be said that the first and second of Genesis contradict each other? We know that the word day in the Bible is constantly used for a period: "The day of temptation in the wilderness; "The day of Salvation," and other such terms. In the first chapter we read of man being created in the same period as the animals, this period being called the sixth day in the second chapter—we read there was a certain time that elapsed between the creation of man and woman and details are given to us. The animals were not formed after Adam's creation, the word "formed" in the Hebrew tense means in a by past time (it has the force of the Greek perfect), they "had been formed" and were brought to Adam to be named. There is no contradiction but amplification of the account, and so also with the account of the Flood. If the scriptures are not an infallible guide as to history, how can they be an infallible guide for salvation and holiness? If man is to draw the line we should indeed have a very fallible guide. But let us remember the Lord Jesus always refers to Old Testament history as fact not fiction. Did He make himself void? Yes, surely. And do some seem to infer that He condescended to be fallible. "In the Greek the word is very definite. He made himself the Perfect Bond Servant, and it means amidst much else that it may mean a perfect conveyance of the Supreme Master's mind; as Paul meant it it is nothing less than the guarantee of the infallibility. It says a profound and decisive *yes* to the question, Is our Redeemer as a man in the days of His flesh to be absolutely trusted as the truth in every assertion He was pleased to make? He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God." (Principal Moule of Cambridge. Exposition of the Epistle to the Philippians) He has said, "The words that I have spoken shall judge him at the last day." That we may be truly His children and then His servants, and receive His approval and not condemnation in that day, is the prayer of yours for God and home and humanity. VERITAS.

A man finds that he enjoys best health when he abstains altogether from wine and spirits, and drinks plain water."—DR. MURCHISON,

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OF NEW ZEALAND.

ORGANISED - 1885.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity."

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THE WHITE RIBBON

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The White Ribbon:

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15, 1898.

Peace on Earth.

THE past year will be remembered for  
the alternations of international clouds  
and sunshine. Chivalrous France, and  
philosophical Germany, equally with  
semi-barbarous Russia, preyed upon,  
and robbed defenceless China to such  
an extent as to threaten a collision  
with England and America. The

United States, youngest of the great nations, battled with, and overcame proud Spain, the one-time mistress of all the Americas. England's triumph in the Soudan over the hordes that devastated that unhappy country bade fair to embroil her with France. And yet, amid all the stormy weather, the Czar sent out his message inviting the nations to consider the advisability of disarmament. To many, the proposal seemed a bit of irony—disarm in the midst of wars and rumours of wars! Absurd!

Yet the wars have been brought to a speedy close, peace has come to the Cubans and Soudanese, the nations have assumed a pacific tone, and favourable replies have been sent to the message of the Czar.

It now seems probable that the chief question among the nations will be the possibility of mutual disarmament. That there may be some practical outcome of the Conference is a consummation devoutly to be wished. The maintenance of huge armies by the nations is as dangerous a practice as the carrying of revolvers and bowie knives by individuals.

### Good-will Towards Men.

At this time of the year, throughout the wide world the minds of men are turned to thoughts of the Prince of Peace. In a few days "Good-will towards men" will be in many hearts and on many tongues. Despite the wreck of creeds, and the fall of systems of theology, the everlasting beauty of the angelic message has not lost its power to soften the crust of selfishness which, even in the best among us, is apt to form, and hide the God-likeness which is in every man. Many of us are but dull scholars in the school of Christ. We cling fondly to our pet theories, whether religious or secular, and are prone to think harshly of those who differ from us. We too often forget

to show the charity which hopeth all things, beareth all things, believeth all things, which never faileth. Each one of us desires the kindness, the esteem, the forbearance of others. But do we not too often forget that the sum of the teachings of all the greatest men the world has possessed is contained in the words, "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye also so to them?"

It is good, therefore, that we should make a festival of the birth-time of Him who came to teach Love and Peace and Goodwill; that we should at least once a year try to put away from us all that is out of harmony with his teachings, and be again reminded of the eternal truth and loveliness of His lessons.

To all readers of the WHITE RIBBON the Editors send kind greetings and wishes that this may be to them a happy Christmas.

### Our Illustration.

THE subject of this month's engraving, Mrs Mary Müller, may be fitly termed the Pioneer Woman Suffragist of New Zealand.

So far back as 1850 Mrs Müller, under *noms de plume*, advocated the claims of women to representation. Her friendship with a number of leading public men in the early days of the Colony—Messrs Stafford, Domett, Saunders, Sir Dillon Bell, Sir David Munro, Sir William Fox, and others, enabled her to do work, which, if not immediately reproductive, helped to prepare the way for others. In 1869 Mrs Müller published a pamphlet on the suffrage question, entitled, "An appeal to the men of New Zealand."

She also corresponded with Mr John Stuart Mill and others, and procured from time to time literature which proved useful. Mrs Müller is now living at New Amersfoot, Blenheim, and although seventy-eight years of age,

still takes a keen interest in whatever may be for the advancement of women. Our readers will join us in hearty congratulations to Mrs Müller in being able at last to see her many years' labour crowned with success.

### Women on Charitable Aid Boards.

We are glad to chronicle the fact that Mrs Black, one of the lady nominees to the Canterbury Charitable Aid Board, has been elected to represent the Selwyn County Council on that Board. We were hoping that Mrs Wells, the other lady nominee, would also have been elected, not only for the useful work she might have done, but for Mrs Black's sake, who, at present, is the only woman member. Mrs Black, however, has already attended a meeting of the Board, and bears tribute to the extremely courteous manner in which she was received by the members, so that any feeling of discomfort she may have had regarding her position on the Board has vanished. This is as it should be, and it is only reasonable to forecast that before next year much of the absurd prejudice which still exists concerning women's work in this direction will have vanished, and several other lady members will be elected.

*From the Editors.*

The Editors request that all contributors to the WHITE RIBBON should see that their items are posted in time to reach Christchurch before the eighth of each month. It should not be forgotten that all work connected with our paper is done voluntarily and without money remuneration, and that those who do it are busy in other directions. The news of unions often require condensing and re-writing, and time is needed for such work. Some of the Union reports arrived as late as the 12th of this month. This should not be, and the Editors hope that those who send reports and correspondence will bear the matter in mind. It should be clearly understood that we cannot undertake to insert matter reaching us after the 8th.

Several annual reports are to hand, some of them too lengthy to publish in full. These have been abridged, and the names of the officers left out, as they will be published in the Convention number.

### Our Annual W.C.T.U. Convention.

It is now definitely settled that Convention opens at Kaiapoi on Tuesday, March 14, and it is to be hoped that delegates will be present from all parts of the Colony.

Mrs Blackwell, President, and Mrs Soulby, Secretary of the Kaiapoi Union, announce that they, with the help of their Union members, mean to do all that is in their power to make the gathering a great success.

As Kaiapoi has not, like the larger centres, boarding-houses where visitors can stay, the hospitality of the members and friends will be taxed to the utmost. It is, therefore, requested that all who intend being present will communicate with Mrs Soulby *as soon as possible*, so that satisfactory arrangements for their entertainment may be made in good time.

\*

Arrangements will also be made whereby Lyttelton friends will meet the steamers from the north or south, and the Southern express will be met by Christchurch White Ribboners, who will be glad to entertain the visitors for the night if desired.

For the benefit of all it may be mentioned that three trains leave Christchurch for Kaiapoi daily, *i.e.*, at 7.35 a.m., 11.50 a.m., and 5.15 p.m., and from Kaiapoi to Christchurch daily at 8.57 a.m., 1.41 p.m., and 6.37 p.m.

As most of the steamers arrive at Lyttelton early in the morning, visitors will be able to get the mid-day train to Kaiapoi.

### New Zealand Literature Department.

Mrs May, New Zealand Literature Superintendent, wishes to acknowledge 5s sent her by the Colyton Union towards the literature fund, which is to be returned in the shape of literature when supplies arrive.

Also that she sent by the last Frisco mail for copies of the WHITE RIBBON Hymnal, some containing words and music others words only.

### Reports of Unions.

Miss Powell desires us to say that she will be glad to receive the annual reports of the Unions *at once*. When it is remembered that we have between fifty and sixty branches, and that the reports of these have to be "boiled down," by our energetic Corresponding Secretary to a brief and readable, as

well as printable, whole, we are sure that the Branch secretaries will comply with Miss Powell's urgent request, and send their reports to her quickly. Until after Convention her address will be Spey Street, Invercargill.



### AN APPEAL FROM THE N.Z. TREASURER.

BLUFF HILL, NAPIER.

December, 1898.

DEAR MADAM,

As it is customary for each local Union to hold its annual meeting in December, I have chosen this time to address you on behalf of the Treasury.

The aim of the Executive is to widen the Union's work, and the departments already formed are in need of more help than has yet been given them by means of the capitation fees.

With a view of rendering more assistance, I would suggest that each Union might adopt some plan or scheme, whereby this object may be attained.

In several centres, notably Christchurch and Dunedin, commendable efforts have been made on previous occasions, and the work accomplished has helped to foster other branches of work of the Union. If you should be able in any way to answer this appeal, I should be glad to receive any information as to the plans devised by your Union before the Convention, which probably will take place early in March.

In addition to the foregoing request I would also remind the branches that as the financial year closes in February I shall be glad to receive all subscriptions at their *earliest convenience*. No account can be shown in the balance-sheet for the year, unless the accounts reach me before February 22nd, 1899. Those who have already sent "Capitation" and "World Wide Fees" for the year, need only attend to the last item in the following requirements, though I shall be glad to receive any arrears from any of the branches:—

- (a) Capitation Fees
- (b) World Wide Fees
- (c) Annual Balance-sheet.

I am, yours faithfully,

EMILY HILL,

New Zealand Treasurer W.C.T.U.

### Cycling Notes.

*Specially written for the WHITE RIBBON by "Porowhita."*

It is a matter of surprise that so few ladies make it their business to learn a little about the mechanism of their iron horse so as to be able to put right any little thing that may go wrong with it. The other day a lady called on me, and said, "I had a puncture just now." "Oh," said I, "what did you do?" "Got another girl to help me and mended it." "Where," I asked, "In the street," was her answer, quite coolly, as if it were an every day occurrence. I thought her one of the most sensible women I had met for a long time, and yet she was one of the last to need the knowledge for herself, for she has brothers and friends who would help her at any time to put things right, wherever she might happen to be. Anyone will give you a lesson in repairing a tire, and now that taking them off the wheel is such an easy thing to do, no lady should be at a loss when put in the awkward position of requiring one mended at any time and place.

Another matter in which ladies are becoming as careless as the gentlemen is the leaving of their tool bag at home. What is the idea I know not, for it can not add much weight to the machine, not enough, certainly, to warrant its being taken off whenever the rider is going out, and especially when going on tour. The fact of wanting the tools may often cause not only delay, but danger to the cyclist, a nut may become loose and eventually work off, and possibly a bad fall may be the result, or a damaged machine that might have been saved by a little common sense and fore-thought. Take also, when touring, a piece of string and a bit of fine wire, for they may come in very handy.

Do not be beguiled into a good run on the sands at some of the many watering places that look so tempting. It means ruin to the bearings of the machine: the sand gets in, and the salt does the machines much harm. Above all, if you wish to prolong the life of the machine, keep it clean, with a well covered in chain, etc. The matter of cleaning should not be a very hard task, and will not only make the machine itself look well at all times, but also save the dress of the rider much. The nickel will not need anything more than rubbing with a soft cloth, or, better still, a piece of selvyt, which is to be obtained at any of the shops, and is



excellent for the purpose. Some people use kerosene to clean the black enamel of the machine, but I am that not sure it is the best thing: I rather fancy it is apt to take it off. For the nickel, when any rust gets on, I often use a little knife polish and kerosene, but polish it off at once with soft rag and a final rub with selvyt. My handles have never required anything more than the selvyt so far, and seem as bright as ever.

### In Remembrance of Miss Willard.

During the last few weeks Lady Henry Somerset has been occupied at Eastnor Castle in modelling a statuette in loving remembrance of her friend and fellow-worker in the temperance cause, the late Miss Frances Willard.

The statuette is about eighteen inches high, and represents Miss Willard in that attitude which was peculiarly characteristic of her as she used to stand on the platform making her unique and eloquent speeches. The left hand is extended, as it always was, in a sort of generous offer of tender help and blessing to the humanity she so lavishly loved. Her dress falls in graceful folds, and the bow of white ribbon, her beloved emblem of temperance and purity for all the world, adorns her left side. Lady Henry has succeeded in catching and embodying the truly spiritual characteristics of Miss Willard, and brings before us the much loved idealist who seemed able, as no other, to uplift our souls to the heavenly spheres where she herself always dwells. Her fine features and beautifully shaped head, with the abundant hair, have been faithfully reproduced.

A number of casts have been taken of Miss Willard's statuette, and it is intended that these shall be sold and the proceeds devoted to the Industrial Farm Home at Duxhurst. It will be remembered how strong was Miss Willard's interest in this home for Inebriate Women, the central hall having been named in her honour.

DRUNKENNESS is not only the cause of crime, it is crime; and the encouragement to drunkenness for the sake of profit on the sale of drink, is certainly one of the most criminal methods of assassination for money ever adopted by the bravoos of any age or country.—*Ruskin.*

Half-a crown a year will procure you a copy of the WHITE RIBBON, posted direct, and you will thus be kept in touch with a large section of the thoughtful women of the colony.



### THE GIFT.

A mother was watching on Christmas night,  
Cocking her babe by the candle light,  
And she lifted her eyes in the gathering gloom,  
For the Christ-child stood in her lowly room.  
"What shall I give to thy child," he said,  
Softly caressing the sleeper's head.  
"Nay," said the mother, "O angel guest,  
Give her whatever thou deemest best.

What shall I give her, O mother mild?  
Ask what thou wilt for thy little child;  
Shall I kiss her brow that her eyes may shine  
With a beauty that men will call divine?  
Shall I touch her lips that they may flow,  
With songs the sweetest the world may know?  
"Nay," said the mother, "that will not stay,  
Songs are forgotten and hair turns gray."

"But what shall I give her," He said again,  
"Ask, and thou shalt not ask in vain,"  
And the mother lifted her eyes above,  
"Give her purity, truth and love!"  
And the Christ-child turned to her soft and mild,  
"Thou hast chosen the best for thy little child.  
Be not afraid, tho' life be sore,  
I shall be with her for evermore."

"Let there be many windows in your soul,  
That all the glory of the universe  
May beautify it. Not the narrow pane  
Of one poor creed can catch the radiant rays  
That shine from countless sources. Tear away  
The blind of superstition: Let the light  
Pour through fair windows, broad as truth  
itself,  
And high as heaven . . . Tune your ear  
To all the wordless music of the stars,  
And to the voice of nature, and your heart  
Shall turn to truth and goodness as the plant  
Turns to the sun. A thousand unseen hands  
Reach down to help you to their peace-crowned  
heights,  
And all the forces of the firmament  
Shall fortify your strength. Be not afraid  
To thrust aside half-truths and grasp the  
whole."

### Mrs May Wright Sewall on the American War.

Mrs May Wright Sewall may claim to be a representative American, for she is the President of the National Council of Women of the United States, which includes thirty-seven different National Societies.

When asked by a representative of the *New Age* for her opinion of the Spanish-American war, she gave it without hesitation, and in no measured terms.

"I am thoroughly ashamed of the war, and disappointed with my country. I would not believe at first that it could be. I thought that America had passed that stage in evolution, and was

destined to show the world a great example without resorting to bloodshed and barbarity. I am not one of those who think that war under all circumstances is wrong; I think it has played a necessary part in the evolution of mankind; it has its historical place in social and moral development, but I thought we had left it behind. It seems to me a terribly backward step for America to be following the arts of war instead of the arts of peace."

"Do you think," asked the interviewer, "the Americans could have gained their point without war?"

"Yes, certainly I do. Diplomacy could have arranged it. It was really we who declared war; we cannot deny that. The Spaniards went as far as they could to meet us, and they would have gone still farther. The matter might have been settled amicably."

"What was it exactly that happened? We have been rather under the impression that as preliminary to the war, America was swept by a hurricane of righteous indignation."

"Nothing of the kind. The people who made the war were the journalists. If we had had no newspapers there would have been no war. Two editors specially were to blame, one in New York the other in Chicago. If I could have been Dictator of the Republic for a few days at the beginning of the war, I should have made those two men serve in the foremost battalion of soldiers." . . . "What will be the end of it?" "Oh, that I cannot foretell. But I can tell you what I think ought to be done. America should sue for peace. Since she is victorious, there would be no humiliation in this for her, as there would be for Spain. She must give up the Philippines; their capture was simply a side issue, and we have no concern with them. Then we should establish a protectorate in Cuba, and let the inhabitants develop their own government. Finally, she should claim no war indemnity; her war expenses are the price she has to pay for entering on the war. We said we did this for righteousness' sake, and we should do to Spain, now that we have conquered her, as we would be done by . . . But the war fever is an intoxication—an insanity—and like other insanities, it will pass. But again I repeat, that I am ashamed of my country, and feel none of the pride in her success which you might expect from a patriotic American. Such I am."

(Abridged from the *New Age*.)

## Lord Wolseley's Recent Manifesto.

In the *Shield* of October last, some lengthy Press opinions were published on Lord Wolseley's recent Memorandum on military immorality, some adverse, others favourable. The comments of the *Army and Navy Gazette*, of August 27th, and the *United Service Gazette*, will give an idea as to the nature of the Memorandum itself. The former publishes it in full, and declares it to be sensible and to the point. "The picture drawn," it says, "is no exaggeration. . . . It is not to be supposed that the regeneration of an Army can be effected in a day or a month or a year; but seeing what steady and certain progress the Army Temperance movement has made and the vast amount of benefit that has accrued from its work—in India at least—there is no valid reason that we can see why Lord Wolseley's excellent suggestions should not bear good fruit. In the eyes of some it may seem like playing to the gallery to ask the officers to exercise a kind of fatherly care over those in the barrack-room. But is it any new feature? The officers of our Army, the best of them at any rate, always have done this to a greater or less extent."

The *United Service Gazette* of September 3rd says: "We sincerely wish well to Lord Wolseley's efforts to regenerate the Army; and if the words of the Memorandum are to have a chance of bearing fruit let them be attached to the walls of every barrack-room in the Army and Marines, as well as read publicly on parade at convenient times and seasons, and scattered broadcast throughout the officers' messes of all corps in Her Majesty's Service." . . . "The Commander-in-Chief has spoken with a solemn conviction of the necessity for a radical change in the condition of the soldier's life, if he is to hold his own in the manifold and strange vicissitudes of an imperial and world-wide service." . . . "More pay, larger lodging allowances, better married quarters, a longer married roll, and rational regimental *réunions*, where the young soldiers of our Army can readily mix in decent and respectable society, will all tend to further the views so admirably expressed by the Commander-in-Chief." . . . "In the case of the officers and better educated non-commissioned officers there is no doubt that attempts will be made to check foul language, to cast the

opprobrium of a more elevated public opinion on those vicious and hideously depraved members of the Army who are a disgrace to a noble profession and a Christian nation." . . . "The prestige of the empire is at stake, and no conceivable expenditure is too great to ensure a good leavening of respectable and self-respected soldiers throughout the service."

### Outlines.

For some not very grave offence a man sent his boy to bed supperless, and told him he would whip him on the morrow. But during the night the boy grew to be six feet tall, and stout and strong in proportion. Whereupon, after mature reflection, the man pardoned the boy, and gave him advice instead, showing him how it would have been wiser and of more advantage to him not to have committed the offence.

A child played at make-believe. He drew a circle upon the ground, and said, "This is a magic circle; everything inside of it is a miracle." He did not know that everything outside of it is a miracle also.

A boy at school did not know his lesson in the geography of Africa, so his teacher kept him in after school to learn it. That night, in going home, the teacher became lost. The boy found him, and guided him home.

A man said, "Whatever is, is right; let things be." But his friend said, "Whatever will be, is also right; let us make a change for the better."

BERRY BENSON.

### Opinions.

"Alcohol is a certain hinderer of work."—DR. SIR ANDREW CLARK.

"The greater the cold, the more injurious is the use of alcohol."—

DR. JOHN RAE.

"Alcohol is not a food in any sense of the term."—PROFESSOR MILLER.

"I can no more accept alcohol as food than I can choleraform or ether."—

DR. EDMUNDS.

"I hardly know any more potent cause of disease than alcohol."—

SIR W. GULL.

"The immense disease-making of intemperance is appalling."—

DR. PARKES.

"As an agent for producing degeneration, alcohol is unrivalled."—

*The Lancet.*

"More than three-fourths of the disorders in what we call 'fashionable life' arise from the use of alcohol"—

DR. S. A. CLARKE.

"If a man takes a public-house, he may reckon upon dying in about half the time he would have lived if he had been, say, a gardener."—

DR. A. CARPENTER.

"There is no vital organ of the body in which there is not induced, sooner or later, more or less disorder and disease by alcoholic drinks."—

SIR H. THOMPSON.

"Alcohol vitiates the blood, inflames the stomach, overtaxes the heart, destroys the kidneys, hardens the liver, and softens the brain."—

DR. NORMAN KERR.

"A man or woman who abstains is healthy and safe. A man or woman who indulges at all is unsafe. A man or woman who relies on alcohol for support is lost"—

DR. SIR B. W. RICHARDSON.

Facts, as well established as any in the domain of physiology, or in the whole field of natural science, point with all the clearness and force of a mathematical demonstration to the conclusion that alcohol is in no sense food.'—

DR. S. N. DAVIS.

"A man may drink in such a way as never to feel consciously excited or embarrassed, yet ruin his health and cut short his days more speedily and surely than the man who is dead drunk every Saturday night."—

DR. GREENFIELD.



## THE HOME.

### HINTS ON HOME NURSING.

If one is to be a success as a nurse, one must use common sense. Self-reliance is pre-eminently necessary. A bond-slave is always inefficient. The nurse who hangs upon every word the doctor says is a poor sort of tool. Before every fresh development she is powerless. The patient feels her lack of self-dependence and is oppressed with a thousand nameless fears which are not only exhausting and devitalizing but sometimes fatal. Blind obedience to the letter of instructions is at best a lifeless thing. Reason must be brought to bear upon the disease that has to be fought and the "whys" and "where

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fores" of this or that remedy clearly understood. One must know how to deal with symptoms from a knowledge of their causes.

Where there is fever the nurse will strive with natural means to allay it. Where there is lack of vitality she will work to supply it. Where there is pain she will endeavour to bring ease. Where sensation is lacking she will do her utmost to excite it. And all these blessings can be brought about in most cases by the application of a little knowledge.

Water is the most natural purifier and invigorator. When it is applied to the skin an interaction is set up. The water is imbibed by the skin and the blood-vessels and they in turn give off the impurities with which they are laden. In fever there is a blocking of organs with morbid matter which accumulates rapidly. To allay the fever and remove the poison apply cold cloths to the parts affected. Cloths, not mere bits of rag, should be wrung out of clean cold water and applied to the heated portions of the body. Immediately they become heated they should be changed and the process should be repeated till the fever is allayed. This may be the work of minutes, it may require many hours. But what is certain is, that as long as the fire lasts it must be fought. If people would only carry out this simple plan long illnesses would be obviated. Perhaps several parts of the body are affected with fever. In that case, never mind the name the doctors give it, apply cloths in turn to the parts affected. When the fever is general, cold wet towels should be laid down the spine, over the abdomen, chest and neck, and round the head, and each in turn changed when heated. It certainly means harder work than the occasional administration of a drug

and the smoothing of a pillow. It is not a sitting down and folding of the hands and watching for more acute symptoms.

The nurse's mind is intent on fighting the disease here and now, and nothing but success is the signal for cessation. Her helpful thought is extended to the patient, who sets up a healthy current of thought which many people believe is the great thing needed.

Acute pain will give way on the application of cold wet towels when all other remedies fail. Many a case of severe inflammation of the lungs or bowels might be saved, if people would only try these natural means. A person suffering from inflammation of the bowels has been seated on a plank over a bath and the water poured over the affected parts till all pain has been conquered. Then he has been put to bed, with wet towels still supplied to the parts affected, and his feet placed against a hot water bag, covered with a wet cloth, to induce heat in the extremities, which in disease are often lacking in vitality through defective circulation.

For wounds and cuts similar treatment is highly beneficial. The parts affected should be bound with a wet cloth, and cooled by pouring cold water over the covered wound. Then after the douching has taken out the fever and removed the pain, not only the wound but also the parts all round should be cooled. For instance, a wounded finger might need the whole arm to be bandaged and laved. Cold towels placed down the spine are also found to be a wonderful help in soothing and healing the affected places.

If there be loss of heat in any portion of the body, gentle rubbing is most efficacious, and the application of moist heat, which is easily managed by cover-

ing a hot water bag with a damp cloth or with a bran poultice. Nerves which have flagged and almost atrophied are thus kindly stimulated into renewed activity, and set themselves again to their task as supervisors of the organs in which, owing to their defection, life seems well-nigh departing.

I should be so glad to know that some poor sufferer has benefited by the methods we advocate in this page. If mothers would only test the simple remedies suggested they would have cause for self-congratulation. To be sure, as we have said often before, great care is needed in the work, but that surely should be no deterrent. A little thoughtful love will foresee anything that might be disagreeable to the patient. In giving the cold towels, for instance, the bed must be protected, and this can easily be done by folding a blanket over a mackintosh, or some other protecting layer. And the cloths will have to be wrung dry and laid on with a firm quiet hand.

If applied to the neck, or chest, or abdomen they should be covered with another towel, so that all may be for the comfort of the patient.

Moist heat can always be supplied by means of a good sized towel wrung out of water and folded over a hot water bag in which the water can be renewed as circumstances demand.

## "OUR FEDERATION."

OFFICIAL Organ of the WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION of AUSTRALASIA (Editor: Mrs E. W. NICHOLLS).

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