

## The White Ribbon:

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1899.

### And there Shall be Peace.

As the time draws nearer in which we celebrate the coming of Him who was called the Prince of Peace, it is a melancholy thought that the two great nations of the Anglo-Saxon race should be engaged in war. The spectacle of war presents so much that is harrowing, debasing and cruel, that it is hard to realise that "Civilisation does get forrader, even on a powder cart." After hoping so much from the recent Peace Conference, the disappointment is keen that no other way of settling the present dispute could be found save the savage and murderous warfare that to-day is in full force. We can only hope now that its very virulence will bring it to a speedy conclusion. Let us do all we can to discourage the vain, arrogant, and blatant war spirit, to urge the substitution of arbitration for Mausers and Lyddite, to remember that Boer and Phillipino are our brother men, and be willing and anxious that right rather than might should prevail.

Then may we hope to see that good time of which Lewis Morris says:—

There shall come, from out this noise of strife  
and groaning,

A broader and a juster brotherhood,  
A deep equality of aim, proportioning

All selfish seeking to the general good.  
There shall come a time when each shall to  
another

Be as Christ would have him, brother unto  
brother.

There shall come a time when brotherhood  
grows stronger

Than the narrow bounds which now distract  
the world;

When the cannons roar and trumpets blare  
no longer,

And the ironclad rusts and battle flags are  
furled;

When the bars of creed and speech and race  
which sever,

Shall be fused in one humanity for ever.

### The Local Option Poll.

After a brief indulgence in the feeling of regret that the opponents of "No License" should apparently have triumphed at the Local Option Poll, it is dawning upon us that we have great cause for rejoicing.

The secular Press of the colony, which is so largely under the influence of the liquor trade, has hastened to tell us that we have suffered "a crushing defeat," that there has been no material progress towards "No License," and so on.

But our newspaper friends have forgotten that wise men hasten slowly, and in their hurry they have not only been untruthful, but have laid themselves open to ridicule.

The official returns are not yet complete, and a tabulated statement of the polling for the whole of the colony is not therefore obtainable. But sufficient data has been procured to indicate that there has been a very large increase in the "No License" vote, an increase which will probably be found to amount to twenty-five per cent.

In the Canterbury district, for example, which contains twelve electorates, the increase in the "No License" vote is over twenty-five per cent., while the liquor vote has considerably decreased. Taking the increase in the Canterbury district as a fair representation of the increase in other parts of the colony, and assuming that there will be a proportionate increase during the next three years, then the next poll should see "No License" victorious right along the line.

This is not an unreasonable assumption. In many electorates throughout the Colony a majority of the voters declared for "No License," and if the law had not made a three-fifths majority necessary, every drinking bar in these electorates would have been closed.

Seeing, then, that the end of the fight is within measurable distance, it is highly necessary that we should at once make plans for the final campaign. Three years of steady, educative work will enable us to overcome prejudice and misrepresentation, to instruct the ignorant, to arouse the apathetic, and to take to the poll an army of "No License" men and women a hundred and fifty thousand strong. The Christchurch Union is already forming plans of work, and it is among the women that the work of our Union lies. Every member of the W.C.T.U. should be a missionary of the benefits of "No License" to the women of her neighbourhood. Touch the hearts of the women, and with the help of the Churches and temperance men, victory will be certain.

We shall look eagerly to the reports of our Unions for the promise of the future, and trust that at the Auckland Convention in February the delegates will be able to give such pledges of work as will cheer the heart of every mother who has boys to save from the dark shadow of the traffic in drink.

### Our Illustration.

Mrs Sievwright, whose portrait appears on the front page, is well known to many of our readers. A cultured and refined woman, with an incessantly busy brain, she is a living testimony to the fact that an indomitable spirit may triumph over a frail body. In the formation of the N.Z. Women's National Council Mrs Sievwright took an active part. By her gentle and graceful manner she has won the affection, and by her powerful and logical papers has commanded the admiration of all who are privileged to know her. Mrs Sievwright has held the office of Vice-President in the Women's National Council since its inception, and for