

The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month.

## THE WHITE RIBBON.

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# The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1909.

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.

GRATITUDE and thankfulness, ought to be the feelings with which we enter on the work of 1909. In this first issue of our paper notice of the progress made, in the work of leading humanity in soberness and cleanliving Christwards, should encourage every WHITE RIBBON worker. The increased vote in our own Dominion for No-License is most gratifying, and the thought of the temptations to do wrong which will be removed during the next six months, will brighten many lives. In America, for the last nine months, the average number of saloons closed has been thirty a day; and within a few weeks one thousand of these licensed temptations have been closed in Ohio alone. Five years ago there was but little more than one-third of the territory of the United States where the saloon had been banished. To-day, the dry territory has been almost doubled, and embraces 2,400,000 square miles. In Finland the importation of whiskey is forbidden, and a law passed, subject to the signature of the Czar of Russia, to prohibit the liquor traffic altogether. In Russia, the Committee appointed by the Duma, in its report recently presented, would prohibit the sale of drink on steamers and railway stations, and allow no person to purchase more than one bottle of Vodka per day; it would grant local option giving votes to each householder and to his mother, wife and daughters. A Swiss national vote of more than 80,000 majority, prohibits the manufacture and sale of

absinthe. Belgium also prohibits absinthe. France, which was once a sober nation, has taught her sons to drink many strong and detestable spirits, an appetite no doubt formed by the constant use of the light wines of the land; she is now seeking to undo the mischief, and amongst other deterrents bans the use of absinthe in the army. Other countries are fighting the liquor traffic, and though for a time it seems the forces of evil have triumphed in the Homeland, yet we believe that eventually "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed." One of our most valuable weapons is prayer, and in this way we can help the work throughout the world. What power is in the hands of each WHITE RIBBON member—a million women banded together to "Do Everything" that makes for the benefit of unborn generations. Let us, in this island of the Pacific, go forward with praise and thanksgiving on our lips, taking courage from the victories of the past, and strive with all our powers of mind and body to bring nearer that glad day, when the world will be Christ's Own Kingdom.

## AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN.

BY MRS. MABEL L. CONKLIN.

THERE is an appalling amount of immorality among children, especially school-children to-day and the great cry among teachers is "What can we do to stop it?" One teacher told me recently that last year the state of immorality in her school-room was such that the authorities thought seriously of discontinuing school in that room for the rest of the year. Not only is moral disease showing itself by way of impure talk and notes among children everywhere, but by actual criminal deeds and an increasing prevalence of the solitary vice. The very walls, sidewalks and fences about school buildings bespeak the low moral tone of the children. While parents sleep or deliberately close their eyes to these conditions, teachers and purity workers are driven almost frantic by the many devices that the devil is putting forth for the destruction of our boys and girls, and the

thought presents itself: Where are our morally, mentally and physically strong men and women of the future to come from if this thing goes on? The occasional teacher who buckles on the armor of courage and wades through prejudice and opposition to go to the rescue of her pupils with purity literature and personal effort is all too soon, in the majority of cases, confronted by the virtuous and indignant parents who demand to know "by what authority she presumes to destroy the innocence" of their children? Ten chances to one those

## Innocent Children

know more of sin and wickedness than their parents, who, because they "don't like to hear about such things," deliberately close their eyes and ears to the conditions about them. To ignore sin is not conquering sin by any means, and silence and false modesty on the part of parents is simply aiding and abetting the evil one in his work of destroying boys and girls.

Some people seem utterly devoid of the ability to recognize and appreciate purity when they see it, although intelligent and cultured in other ways. The result of this supersensitiveness on the part of such mothers concerning the sacred and beautiful relations and mysteries of life is to impress their children with the idea that these things are in themselves vulgar when they really mean that they are too sacred for careless converse. I have more than once gone into

## So-called Christian

intellectual homes and found the library table piled up with the several daily papers which are reeking with reports of murders, assaults and worse crimes, while our choicest literature in its periodical visits to those same homes will, as soon as it is delivered by the postman, be stuck behind the bookcase or locked in a drawer where "the children can't find it," and where it remains only to be brought out after the boys and girls have gone to bed.

In the name of struggling, sin-sick humanity, I implore the fathers, mothers, teachers and pastors of our land to pocket their embarrassment and fears and to unite with us in a mighty effort for the