

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

VOL. 6.—No. 70.

CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z., MARCH, 1901.

2s 6d Per Annum
Post Free

Queen Victoria and the Temperance Movement.

The most appropriate garland that we can bring, to reverently lay with the other emblems of a people's love, is one woven with incidents connecting the departed Queen with the temperance movement. The Queen could not have loved her people well without having her heart stirred by the evils which made the lives of many of them a curse to be endured rather than a blessing to be enjoyed.

Soon after the young Queen came to the throne she became the patron of the British and Foreign Temperance Society, whose members were pledged to abstain from distilled spirits, and to discountenance the causes and practice of intemperance. Advanced reformers had already recognised the insufficiency of this remedy, and in 1838 the first English book in advocacy of abstinence from all intoxicants, "The Cause of Britain," by the Rev W. R. Baker, was published, and the Queen accepted a copy of this.

In 1854 her Majesty received an address from the wives and daughters of working men, pathetically pleading for her influence to be cast against their worst enemies—the gin palace and the public-house. Three years later she was addressed to this end by quite a different class of persons—a Ministerial

Conference, which adopted a declaration in favour of prohibition, signed eventually by 2,390 ministers of religion. Thus the evils of the liquor traffic were brought before the Head of the Nation by those who suffered, and those who saw and sympathised. Later there came a pictorial presentation of



MRS T. KIRK, PRESIDENT WELLINGTON W.C.T.U.

these evils. George Cruikshank took his great picture, "The worship of Bacchus," to Windsor Castle, and pointed its lessons to the Queen. There are about 1,000 figures in the picture, arranged in various groups depicting the worship of the wine-god (and the beer-and-gin god) from the cradle to

the grave. The workhouse, the refuge, the madhouse, the prison, and the gallows are shown side by side with the smoke-reeking brewery and distillery, and Bacchus stands in triumph, enthroned as the strongest monarch of all.

In these ways the evils of drink were brought before the Royal mind. Then there came a suggestion as to remedies. The Convocation of Canterbury Report upon Intemperance was presented, and an elegantly-bound copy was received by the Queen. The chief remedy suggested was complete Local Option—giving to the people "a legal power of restraining the issue or renewal of licenses." "Such a power," the report continued, "would, in effect, secure to the districts willing to exercise it the advantages now enjoyed by the numerous parishes in the province of Canterbury, where, owing to the influence of the landowner, no sale of intoxicating liquors is licensed." Few, it may be believed, are cognisant of the fact, which has been elicited by this inquiry, but there are at this time within the province of Canterbury upwards of 1,000 parishes in which there is neither public-house nor beer-shop, and where, in consequence of the absence of these inducements to crime and pauperism, according to the evidence before the committee, the intelligence, morality, and comfort of the people are such as the friends of temperance would have anticipated. Later there is evidence

that these things had lingered in the mind of the Queen. In 1875, Sir Thomas Biddulph, her secretary, wrote:—"It is impossible for the Queen not to be grateful to those who endeavour to mitigate an evil of such magnitude as the widely spread intemperance which unfortunately prevails." Later, in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the York Convocation Committee's Report upon Intemperance, Sir Thomas wrote:—"It is her Majesty's earnest wish that these efforts may be crowned with success." In the same year the Queen became patron of the Church of England Temperance Society.

Soon after, the Queen's speech at the opening of Parliament congratulated the people upon a decrease in the annual drink bill, which was a recognition in high quarters of the fact that it is well for the country when liquor sellers are faring badly. In 1887 a jubilee memorial to the Queen in favour of the Sunday closing of public-houses was signed by nearly 1,200,000 mothers and daughters of England.

It may be claimed that the Queen became a prohibitionist for the majority of her subjects—those whose skins were dark. In 1895, addressing Khama and other Bechuana chiefs at Windsor Castle, she said:—"I am glad to see the chiefs, and to know that they love my rule. I confirm the settlement of their case which my Minister has made. I approve of the provision excluding strong drink from their country. I feel strongly in this matter, and am glad to see that the chiefs have determined to keep so great a curse from the people."

Drink is a curse to the white people of the Empire as well as the black, and surely one of the best monuments to the memory of the Queen would be the State which bears her name freed from "so great a curse" by the enlightened resolution of the people themselves. Better than monument of whitest marble with inscription of purest gold would be the name Victoria enshrined beneath the Southern Cross in a State free from "so great a curse" as the liquor traffic, and with righteousness as the crown of its greatness.—"The Alliance Record," Victoria.

A Prayer Fulfilled.

Said the London "Times":—"The Queen is gone from her people full of years and honour. Their loss is irreparable, but they may take some comfort from the thought that for her the beauti-

ful prayer of Tennyson has been exactly fulfilled. That which he wrote in dedicating the "Idylls of the King" to the dead Prince Consort in an address to the Queen was—

"May all love,
This love unseen, but felt, o'ershadow thee,
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,
The love of all thy people comfort thee,
Till God's love set thee at His side again."

La Reine Est Morte.

The following lines, which appeared in the London "Times," are said to have been written by Rudyard Kipling:—

Mother of mothers, Queen of Queens,
Ruler of rulers, lord of lords;
War harvests, but the reaper gleans,
A richer prize than swords.

God help our England, for we stand
Orphaned of her who made us one;
The honour of the Fatherland
Her hope, her trust, her sun.

Afar, where summers burn and glow,
The subject peoples of our race,
Shall see their stricken master go,
With tears upon his face.

The Nation, at her dying, born,
Shall weep beneath the Southern Cross,
And with her Mother Country mourn
Irreparable loss.

The scattered islands of her realm,
Shall droop the emblem of her sway,
Who, through the long years grasped the helm
Through the laborious day.

And flashing lights shall signal far,
Their tidings to the passing ships,
To tell the sinking of her star,
Her sorrowful eclipse.

O Mother Queen! God's honoured guest,
Who greatly welcomes those who bring
Thy great credentials; thine His rest.
Amen. God save the King.



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

Auckland.

At the meeting held on Feb. 27th, it was resolved to write to the City Council asking if action had yet been taken *re* Curfew Bell. Thanks were accorded to all friends who had helped at Anniversary social and Kiosk in Domain, and especially to Mr W. H. Smith, for use of tent, etc. The Secretary was instructed to forward to Lord

Ranfurlly, for transmission to the King, a copy of the resolution of sympathy passed on the death of our beloved Queen. Superintendents of departments were elected as follows: Literature, Miss Hughes; Social Purity, Mesdames Hughes and Aston; Unfermented Wine, Mrs Plummer; Bible in Schools, Mrs Dewar; Scientific Temperance Instruction in Schools, Mrs Main; Relief, Mrs Hill; WHITE RIBBON, Mrs Wallace. Mrs Thorne was appointed delegate to Convention.

Reefton.

Two new members were enrolled at the meeting held on Feb 5th. We were delighted to hear that the Brunnerton Union had been revived. All present signed the petition for Removal of Disabilities, and we intend getting other signatures. Literature is also to be distributed. The room was draped in black as a mark of respect for our late beloved Queen, and a resolution expressive of sorrow at her death was passed.

Nelson.

At our meeting on Feb. 12th, the ordinary business was postponed, and we had the pleasure of listening to an address by Mrs Stott, of the China Inland Mission. Mrs Stott is an effective speaker, quiet and impressive. She compared the opium smoking of China with the British vice of drunkenness, and laid great stress on the power of real Christianity. The social element was introduced at the close in the shape of tea and cakes.

Greymouth.

The monthly meeting was held on March 7th. There were twenty members present. It being the last meeting of our President, who is leaving for Convention, a great deal of business had to be discussed, also petitions had to be signed. Our work is progressing, and we hope to give a good account of ourselves on our President's return. We are pleased to record another member to our ranks.

Naseby.

This Union met for business on Feb. 25th. The petition *re* Women's Disabilities was read. It was agreed to hold a Garden Party on Wednesday, March 6th, and bring the matter forward. The Secretary promised to prepare an address on the subject. The case of some neglected children was dealt with, and the Secretary instructed to procure information on the subject.

[Perhaps some member of the Christchurch Union would be good enough to tell us how to proceed. We understand they dealt with a case some years ago.]

Woodend.

We have had some very enjoyable afternoons lately. We held our "At Home" on Feb. 21st, when the ladies of the Kaiapoi Union paid us a visit. Mrs G. H. Blackwell gave a very interesting and instructive paper on "Bible in Schools." On March 7th we held our meeting at Mr T. Wilson's, Waikuku, which was very enjoyable. Mrs John Little gave a paper on "Hood," which caused a lively discussion.

* WOMEN'S SOCIETIES. *

CANTERBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

The annual meeting was held on Feb. 13th.

Before beginning the ordinary business, the president, Mrs Black, moved—"That the Canterbury Women's Institute desires to place on record its sorrow at the death of the Queen, and its deep appreciation of her many excellent qualities, both as a sovereign and a woman." The motion was passed in silence.

Mrs Black then read her presidential address, which was to the following effect:—

The eighth anniversary of the Institute brings us to the beginning of a new century, whose dawn has been already clouded by the heart breaking horrors of war and by a great national bereavement. As women, it is with deep gratitude we acknowledge the debt we owe to our late beloved Queen. From every quarter of the Empire testimony is borne not only to her sterling qualities as wife, mother, and friend, but also to her abilities as a stateswoman and ruler. By her life she has demonstrated that devoted attention to public duties is not incompatible with the fulfilment of duties to husband, children, and home. The large majority of our law-makers has not yet recognised the right of the woman as an individual.—Sex disability, which seems to be the staple argument brought to bear against woman's complete enfranchisement, is, after all, one which is equally applicable

to either sex, for each is the complement of the other, and sex disability in man exists as well as sex disability in woman. Humanity is the concern of both male and female, and in the last resort no question can be considered apart from its interest to humanity. Woman's influence has already made itself felt in our politics, for since she has taken a more active part in public affairs, social questions have received greater consideration. Equal divorce laws, and old age pensions, have been already obtained, while other reforms dealing with improvements in our industrial school system, continuation of education, public health and morality are being earnestly considered, and militarism and its accompanying evils, on the subject of which the Premier has lately spoken with no uncertain voice, has been strenuously opposed by most thinking women among us. Yet much work lies before us. The retention of the C.D. Act on the Statute Books attests to the still prevalent belief in a double code of morals for the sexes. Though the Statute is a dead letter, so long as it remains it implies a perversion of morality in public thought. Attention has lately been drawn in Christchurch to the necessity of putting into operation some legislation to supersede these Acts, and proposals were made which really amounted to introducing them in another form. But the suffering and disease which arise from the transgression of moral laws cannot be controlled by arbitrary regulations. Closely linked with this question of morals is our present economic system. It is due to every child among us that he shall receive such training as shall fit him for life's duties, but stress of life in some cases makes it difficult for some to fulfil their parental obligations. The remedy seems largely to be in an improved system of education, which will consider domestic and technical training an essential. Many a child would then bring order into a disorderly home. Not entirely remote from the consideration of this subject is the question of the financial position of many married women, who are forced into false and uncongenial relations by reason of their dependent monetary positions. As a further aid to reform, we trust that the newly-organised Burgesses' Association may be productive of improvement in municipal matters. I have referred to the sorrowful opening of the century, but as its sun climbs higher we believe that a new era of higher thought and purer laws will be

born. Old ideas of Government must give place to newer and better ones. We trust that the democracy of the future will be one which will make for the development of each individual in the organism of the State, and for a fuller recognition of the brotherhood of man, which must hasten the time when war shall cease and peaceful methods will settle our international disputes. But to bring about this consummation, so greatly to be desired, we believe that woman must take her place in all the councils and in "all the tangled business of the world."

The Secretary then read a summary of the work done by the Institute during the year.

The report and balance-sheet were adopted, and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Amuri County Council, expressing a hope that it would nominate Mrs Wells for the seat on the Hospital Board, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr Acton-Adams.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Miss Hookham; vice presidents, Mesdames S. Page, L. Blake, Henderson and Isherwood; secretary, Mrs Ross; assistant secretary Mrs Isherwood; treasurer, Mrs Williams; committee, Mesdames Smith, Hookham, Black, Wells, Fletcher, Jakins, Sheppard, Simpson, Atkinson, and Wallace.

Outlines of the Woman Suffrage Movement in New Zealand.

IX.

The Franchise Superintendent lost no time in vain regrets. Sure of a majority in the Lower House, every effort was devoted to creating a public opinion strong enough to storm the stronghold of the opponents in the Upper Chamber. A fresh petition was drawn up and circulated. Large quantities of leaflets were printed and distributed throughout the colony. Every Union was spurred up to renewed effort, and frequent correspondence held with the Franchise Leagues, of which there were now a number, thus ensuring united and harmonious action. Previous to the session of 1893 large and enthusiastic meetings were held in the principal towns, and the enfranchisement of women became the topic of the day. There was ground for hope, too, in the fact that

twelve new members had been called to the Legislative Council. As the Government had incorporated the principle of Woman Suffrage in its Electoral Bill, it might fairly be supposed that the new Legislative Councillors would be staunch supporters of the Government measure in its entirety. Too much dependence, however, was not placed on this supposition, and the W.C.T.U. and the Franchise Leagues worked on without intermission until the assembling of Parliament. When the sheets of the petition were finally gathered up and the signatures counted, it was found to have been signed by 31,872 women, nearly one-third of the womanhood of the colony. When the difficulty of communication is considered, it will be agreed that this was a remarkable achievement.

On July 28 the Premier moved that the House go into committee on the Electoral Bill. Sir John Hall took the opportunity of presenting the petition, remarking that it was the most numerous signed petition ever presented to any Parliament in Australasia. After an attempt had been made to revive the question of "Electoral Rights" the Bill was committed.

In the meantime, fearing that Womanhood Suffrage was being jeopardised by being included in the Electoral Bill, which bristled with points on which the two Houses might hold divergent views, Sir John prepared and introduced a separate Woman Suffrage Bill.

On August 9 Sir John Hall moved the second reading of his Bill. An acrimonious debate followed, but the opponents of the franchise, realising the hopelessness of their efforts, abandoned the contest, and the second reading was carried by a practically unanimous vote. Two days after, the third reading of the Electoral Bill was debated.

The franchise question excited the keenest interest, and evinced the fact that there was great tension in the Government party. Charges of insincerity were freely levelled at the Premier, especially in connection with the new members of the Upper House. After a stormy debate, the third reading was agreed to on the voices.

On August 17, Sir P. A. Buckley moved the second reading of the Bill in the Legislative Council. Here, too, the interest centred on the question of Womanhood Suffrage. The debate lasted for several days, and was at times very heated. The opposition to

the extension of the franchise was led by the Hon. W. C. Walker (one of the newly-appointed councillors and the present Minister of Education) and the Hon. C. C. Bowen. The Government was again charged with insincerity, many Councillors asserting that the Bill had been sent up for the express purpose of being killed, the Premier not daring to oppose Womanhood Suffrage in an elected Assembly. Amendment after amendment was proposed and negatived, and the position of affairs was frequently most intricate. Many Councillors voted in a contrary direction to their opinions, some with the object of killing the Bill, and so getting rid of the hated Suffrage question, and some with the object of preserving this feature of the Bill at almost any cost. The Bill, however, emerged from the ordeal without serious loss, and the final trial of strength took place on September 8. Mr Bowen's despairing effort, which took the shape of a motion to read the Bill six months later, failed, and the third reading was carried by a majority of two. The smallness of the majority, in view of the fact that the Government had created twelve new Councillors, left little doubt in most minds that the charges against Mr Seddon were painfully true.

Although the Bill had passed both Houses, the Governor's signature had yet to be appended before it could become law. Beaten in fair fight, the minority in the Legislative Council took an uncommon step. They signed and forwarded to the Governor a petition asking him to withhold his assent to the Bill on the following grounds:—
 "(1) It is a Bill of an extraordinarily important nature, and the rights and property of her Majesty's subjects not resident in the colony are seriously affected, as results may seriously embarrass the finances of the colony, thereby injuriously affecting the public creditor, who was unaware that such legislation was seriously contemplated.
 (2) We firmly believe that the majority of the settlers of both sexes are opposed to the measure.
 (3) There has been no opportunity yet afforded to the electors to express their opinions on the subject."

The first clause of the Councillors' petition was manifestly absurd at the moment, and has become even more so during the seven years of prosperity which have since elapsed. But with regard to the second and third clauses Mrs Sheppard felt that prompt action was necessary. She therefore wrote

to the Earl of Glasgow as follows:—
 "On behalf of the 31,000 women whose petition I had the honour of forwarding to Parliament, I am empowered by my Executive to address your Excellency on the question of the protest urged by a minority of the Legislative Council against your Excellency's immediate assent to the enfranchisement of the women of the colony. I therefore beg to point out that on the eve of the last General Election a large majority in the House of Representatives affirmed the principle of Womanhood Suffrage, and that Sir John Hall was induced to withdraw the Woman's Franchise Bill, which would have given effect to the principle, solely on the ground that the question had not come before the constituencies and should be relegated to the country. Womanhood suffrage was one of the most prominent questions raised at the last elections, and every candidate, I believe without exception, declared himself as either favourable or antagonistic to the enfranchisement of women. The constituencies having elected a large majority of representatives who were avowedly supporters of Womanhood Suffrage, the assertion made in clause 3 of the protest forwarded to your Excellency is absolutely without foundation and contrary to fact. I sincerely trust that your Excellency will not allow the action taken by both Houses of Parliament in acceding to the petition of 31,000 women of the colony to be frustrated." Mrs Sheppard also telegraphed to the Unions and Franchise Leagues, urging swift action in the same direction. This was taken; meetings were held, and representations made to the Governor from many parts of the colony. The brewers and publicans were no less active, for they prepared a petition against Womanhood Suffrage, and also forwarded it to the Governor. A large number of names were placed upon it, and the shameless manner in which they were duplicated was a matter of comment in the daily papers. While the Governor's assent was still in suspense it was discovered that an omission had been made which concerned Maori electors. The Premier, however, announced that the Government would deal with the omission in a special Bill. On September 19 Mr Seddon forwarded to Mrs Sheppard the following telegram:—"The Electoral Bill assented to by his Excellency the Governor at a quarter to twelve this day," and the enfranchisement of every adult woman of New Zealand was at last achieved.

The Prohibitionist Programme.

The following resolutions, which have been under consideration for some time, have been confirmed by the Christchurch Prohibition League, and may be regarded as the present programme of the Prohibition Party:—

A. This meeting strongly protests against the proposal: To legalise the sale of liquor, under any system, in the King Country, and urges that Section 33 of the Alcoholic Liquors Sale Control Act Amendment Act, 1895, should be made applicable to the district, and that the prohibitory laws should be stringently enforced. (a). It believes it to be the duty of all civilised Governments to protect aboriginal races from self-destruction by drink.

(b). It regards the proposal to withdraw this protection from the King Country Maoris as an inconsistent and wholly unjustifiable abandonment, in this particular, of the general policy of protection that the Government of New Zealand has hitherto adopted towards them in this and other matters.

(c). It holds that to grant any form of licenses in the district would be a direct and dishonourable breach of the agreement made in April, 1885, between the then Premier and the Maoris, when permission was given for Europeans to enter the King Country and construct a railway therein.

B. It urges Parliament to reject the undermentioned proposals made in the Licensing Acts Amendment Bill, 1900, viz.:—

1. To deprive the electors of the power they now possess to determine for themselves in each electorate whether licenses shall, or shall not continue. It holds that the provincial districts are too unwieldy for the purposes of such a poll, and devoid of common interests; and that the considerations which lead to the maintenance of the electorates as licensing districts should lead to their being retained as local option districts.

2. To empower the Colonial Secretary to grant licenses for the convenience of tourists, regardless of the option vote. It holds that the bestowal of such power upon the Colonial Secretary involves the absolute repeal of the local option poll, and would deprive licensing committees of their power of control.

3. To take a special vote by which a bare majority of the electors of the

colony can determine on an extension to six years of the term between the submission of local option issues to the voters. (a). It regards this proposal as wholly opposed to the principle of the Referendum, inasmuch as it would enable whatever party might be for the time being in a majority to disfranchise themselves and their opponents. (b). It urges that the result might be to confer on the liquor monopolists of the colony an extension of the unique privilege they already enjoy in holding a three years' tenure of licenses, instead of the annual tenure which rules in all other parts of the English-speaking world. (c). It recognises that such an extension of the term could only result in strengthening the vested interests of the liquor traffic, and in enabling it to still further defy public control.

4. To take from the people the reduction vote without again conferring on licensing committees the discretionary power to reduce. (The discretionary power conferred on the committee by the Act of 1881 was withdrawn in 1893, only because the question of reduction was then submitted to the electors' vote).

C. It urges that such drastic changes as are referred to in Clauses B1 and B2 above should not be even submitted to Parliament until the people have considered and pronounced upon them at the next general election. (a) It reminds the representatives of the people that 280,000 voters availed themselves in December, 1899, of the powers they possess to vote on the local option issues in the electorates, and that no public request has been made by any of them for the substitution of provincial option districts. (b). It urges that the proposals objected to in these resolutions are all distinctly retrogressive, and unworthy of the Parliament and people of a colony that claims to be in the van of Liberal legislation.

The Fence, or the Ambulance?

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke, and full many a peasant;
So the people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally.
Some said, "Put a fence round the edge of the cliff;"
Some, "An ambulance down in the valley."

But the cry for the ambulance carried the day,
For it spread through the neighbouring city;

A fence may be useful or not, it is true,
But each heart became brimful of pity
For those who slipped over that dangerous cliff;

And the dwellers in highway and valley
Gave pounds or gave pence—not to put up a fence,
But an ambulance down in the valley.

"For the cliff is all right if you're careful,"
they said,

"And if folks even slip and are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below—when they're stopping!"

So, day after day, as these mishaps occurred,
Quick forth would these rescuers sally,
To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff
With their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old sage remarked, "It's a marvel to me
That people give far more attention
To repairing results than to stopping the cause,
When they'd much better aim at prevention.

Let us stop at its source all this mischief,"
cried he,

"Come, neighbours and friends, let us rally!

If the cliff we well fence we might almost dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley."

"Oh, he's a fanatic!" the others rejoined;
"Dispense with the ambulance! Never!
He'd dispense with all charities, too, if he could;

But no! We'll support them for ever!
Ar'n't we picking folk up as fast as they fall?
And shall this man dictate to us? Shall he?
Why should people of sense stop to put up a fence
While their ambulance works in the valley?"

But a sensible few, who are practical too,
Will not bear with such nonsense much longer;

They believe that prevention is better than cure,
And their party will soon be the stronger.
Encourage them, then, with your purse, voice and pen,
And (while other philanthropists dally)
They will scorn all pretence, and put up a stout fence
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.

Better guide well the young than reclaim them when old,
For the voice of true wisdom is calling:
'To rescue the fallen is good, but 'tis best
To prevent other people from falling.'

Better close up the source of temptation and crime
Than deliver from dungeon or galley;

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THE TOP OF THE CLIFF
THAN AN AMBULANCE DOWN IN THE VALLEY!

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THE WHITE RIBBON

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The White Ribbon:

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 1901.

At Convention and After.

By the time this issue of the WHITE RIBBON reaches some of our subscribers the Annual Convention of the New Zealand W.C.T.U. will have commenced its sixteenth session.

Although the detailed programme is long and varied, the objects of Convention are only two. They are: To receive reports—to take stock—of what has been done during the year, and to form plans of future work. While the record of the past year will be of interest to the delegates, yet the most important feature of the assembly must necessarily be the plans formed for the present year. No National Union in the world is richer in power and opportunity than that of this colony. To a very large extent women here have placed in their hands the means to effect a moral and social revolution. The "Do Everything" policy laid down for the Union by Frances Willard affords opportunity for every kind of gift that women possess. New Zealand never had more need for earnest and enthusiastic women workers. And yet the numbers of those are sadly few. How are they to be increased? What means can be devised to make every nominal member of our Unions a worker in some way or other? And having first set every member to some work that she can do, how are our members to be increased? These are questions that not Convention alone, but every member of our Unions should attempt to answer. We are at the beginning of a new century, we are laying the foundation of a new nation. What that century will bring forth, what that nation will become, must largely depend on our use of our God.

given talents. We are proud of our bright young country. We want it to be free of the terrible evils that have compassed older lands. Nightly in the sky do we see the starry cross, the symbol of unselfish love, of pure, heroic work for others. Can we look up at that bright beacon without resolving that we, too, will work in the same spirit as He Who pleased not Himself.

April 9th and 24th.

By an Act which was passed last session, and which is now come into operation, a radical change has been made in the government of our cities and boroughs.

The qualification of electors has been greatly broadened, so much so as to include the greater part of the adult male and female population of our towns. The electoral list now includes every freeholder, every one who pays rates, and every one who pays a rent of not less than ten pounds a year. And, still further, if a husband possesses any of these qualifications, then his wife is entitled to be on the electoral list.

That is to say, if a man owns a freehold in any of our boroughs, or pays rates, or rents a cottage, or office, or any other building, or part of a building, at a rental of not less than ten pounds a year, then his wife may have her name placed on the electoral list, and vote at the election of the mayor and councillors.

Practically,

Every Married Woman has a Vote.

This is both a privilege and a responsibility, and it is to be hoped that women will use the power given into their hands freely and wisely. The powers conferred on Borough Councils are great and varied. Among them are

lighting, drainage, water-supply, fire prevention, sanitation, prevention of nuisances, inspection of milk and dairies, the pulling down of unhealthy dwellings, the prevention of over-crowding, erection of workers' dwellings, the beautifying of our towns by planting, providing for recreation, the establishing of technical schools, aiding museums and libraries, the prevention or regulation of Sunday entertainments. The City Councils and Boroughs have also much to do with the management of hospitals and charitable aid. All these things affect the health and morals of our townspeople, and it is of the utmost importance that our Mayors and Councillors should be men of good repute and intelligence. It is to be feared that many of our women are unaware of their privileges, or are apathetic. Here, then is

Work for our Unions

and women's societies that are in municipalities. If every such Union and society would at once resolve itself into a committee for the placing of women's names on the rolls much might be done at the elections that are close at hand. The time is short, for the electoral lists will be closed on the 9th or 10th of April, and the election of the Mayor and all the Councillors is to be held on April 24th. If prompt action be taken to use these new powers, a mighty influence for good may be exerted.

First get women's names on the rolls of the cities and boroughs, and then urge them to vote for men who are worthy of trust.

Our Illustration.

Convention this year is to be the guest of the Wellington Union, and we have great pleasure in presenting to our readers a portrait of its President. Mrs Thomas Kirk is one of the Vice-Presidents of the New Zealand W.C.T.U.,

and for the last seven years has been President of the Wellington Branch having, as she herself said when being re-elected this year, "served an apprenticeship to the office." Her kindly disposition and unobtrusive piety have won for her the loving regard of those with whom she is associated, and we are indebted to her for the gift of Mrs Atkinson, who has been our New Zealand Recording Secretary for so many years.

IMPORTANT TO UNIONS.

In order to prevent disappointment, it is imperative that orders for copies of Convention number should be in the Business Manager's hands by the 10th of April.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ENGLISH VISITORS.—Some of the women-workers of the South Island have had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs Martindale of Church House, Lancaster Road, Brighton, England, who, with her two daughters, is at present on a tour round the world. Mrs Martindale is an ardent suffragist, and has been in touch with the women leaders and workers in the Mother Country—Lady Carlisle, Lady Aberdeen, Lady Henry Somerset, and others—she herself being actively engaged in promoting women's interests in several directions. She took part in the recent Women's International Congress in 1899, and presided at the meeting of the Congress, in St. James' Hall, for the discussion of the "Scientific Training of Domestic Servants." She is gathering as much information as possible regarding the status and work of women in the colonies, and especially in New Zealand, where the women have gained the parliamentary vote. Mrs Martindale's elder daughter is a fully-qualified physician, and is eager to learn all about our hospitals and to meet with our lady doctors. Her younger daughter has been engaged in inspecting boarded-out children in England, and is now interesting herself in the methods adopted in the colonies for

the protection and education of poor and neglected children. Unfortunately, the stay of these ladies in our colony is short. They paid a brief visit to Dunedin, and are at present in Canterbury. Next week they leave for Wellington and Auckland, from whence they will travel by the San Francisco Mail boat, which sails from Auckland on the 13th April.

*

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COUNCIL.—The sixth meeting of this Council will be held in Wanganui early in May. The subjects of papers and addresses promised are as follows:—"Parental Responsibility," "Illegitimacy," "Education," "The Kindergarten," "Some Defects in our Primary School System," "The Duty of the State towards its Neglected Children," "Effect of Literature on the Education of a Race," "Temperance," "Some Utopian Ideas on the Domestic Servant Question," "Party Government," "Hygiene," "Food Reform," "The Broadening of Women's Outlook."

*

A MISTAKE.—We hear that the Manchester Women's Temperance Association has declined a bequest of £100 from a brewer. This, in our opinion, was a great mistake. Why should not the brewer help to alleviate some of the misery that he caused by the sale of his beer?

*

PEACE AND ARBITRATION.—England has appointed her four representatives to the Permanent International Court of Arbitration at the Hague.

*

TREATING SOLDIERS.—From the International Press Agency we learn that "the Worcestershire County Council has resolved to placard the county with the Commander-in-Chief's appeal against treating home-coming soldiers with intoxicants." We wish that this example might be followed in New Zealand.

SOME POINTS

OF THE

ARGUMENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF
WOMEN'S DISABILITIES.

The essential spirit of true civilization is to render justice and fair-play and an equality of opportunity to every member of the community. It is, in fact, the application of the Golden Rule to the affairs of our civic life.

The non-recognition of this Rule leads to injustice and to dissension; it erects barriers where none should exist; it allows Might to rule instead of Right, and inflicts hardships on large sections of the community.

* * *

By the retention of their disabilities the women of New Zealand are practically regarded as being unfit or unworthy to possess the same privileges that are enjoyed by all other citizens.

* * *

During the earlier years of life, little distinction is made by law between the sexes. They are educated in the same primary schools, they are required to pass the same standards. There are High Schools for girls, and young women are admitted under the same tests and examinations as young men. If women wish to become school teachers they have to obtain the same certificates as men, and when engaged in teaching, their work is gauged by the same standards. The law, therefore, admits that there is an equality of intelligence and brain in both sexes.

* * *

But when school days are over, our law at once begins to assign to women an inferior position. By the Masters and Apprentices Act, and at least one of our later Factory laws, girls are to be paid lower wages than boys. If they are school teachers, they are paid about half the sum that is paid to men for doing precisely the same work. And the spirit of inequality warranted by law has been adopted as a guiding principle. There is, perhaps, no avocation in which both men and women are engaged in which women are not paid a much lower wage than men.

* * *

Then, while every man is free to engage in any occupation that is honest, and to fill any position of trust or honour to which duty may call him, or taste and ability incline him, women are prohibited from enjoying the same freedom.

* * *

If women wish to be helpful to their sisters in prison, they are not allowed the powers that would be given to them if they were men.

* * *

If a woman has married a helpless, incompetent man (and there are many who have), and finds herself compelled to earn the living for herself and family (and there are many who do), she may not enter into partnership, even with another woman, without

the consent of the man whom she is supporting.

* * *

If she has children, for whom, to bring into the world, she has endangered her life, and to benefit whom she would gladly endanger it again, she is not by law their guardian. They are called by her husband's name, and he alone has power to dispose of their future.

* * *

But if she has a child born out of wedlock, then it must bear her name, and not its father's, and she is held to be solely accountable for its welfare.

* * *

These are only some of the inequalities between men and women. And they are sanctioned by our laws, which have been made by men, and which deliberately impose disabilities on women as if they were an inferior race.

* * *

The disabilities which have been wrongfully imposed on women are a degradation to us as a free people, they are dishonouring to the womanhood of the colony, they set a bad standard for our boys, and are an injustice to our girls. No nation can be truly free which does not grant freedom to all its citizens; no people can be truly good which does not honour its women. The shameful C.D. Acts are an example of the evil that may arise through the disabilities of women. Had women been on a legal equality with men, these evil Acts, which are so degrading to our manhood and dishonouring to our womanhood, would never have been passed.

* * *

But it may be objected, "If the disabilities of women are removed, we might have women sitting in Parliament!" That is quite true, and under our present laws we might have Germans, or Chinese, or Negroes sitting in Parliament if the electors choose to send them there.

* * *

There are thoughtful men who think it might be a benefit to the State if we had the assistance of women in making our laws. John Ballance, one of the clearest-brained of our statesmen, was one of these, and, as Premier, asked, "Why, if we had women capable of sitting in the Councils of the country and legislating, they should not be admitted to Parliament?" No answer was given to that question, and it still remains unanswered.

But while there would be that dreadful possibility if we make our women as free as we do a Chinaman who becomes naturalized, there is not likely to be any immediate danger. South Australia made its women eligible for Parliament some years ago, and we have not heard of any woman ever offering herself as a candidate for Parliament. And, in any case, the matter can be safely left to the electors, the majority of whom are men.

Sixteenth Annual Convention of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union, to be held in Wellington, 1901.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH.

3 p.m.—Reception Meeting in Baptist Schoolroom, Vivian-street (behind the church).

THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST.

W.C.T.U. ROOMS, CONSTABLE-STREET, NEWTOWN.

9.30 a.m.—Prayer Meeting (led by the President).

10 a.m.—Convention.
Appointment of Committees on Courtesies.
Resolutions.
President's Address.
Treasurer's Report.

12.—Noontide Hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2.15 p.m.—Corresponding Secretary's Report.

3.30 p.m.—Address by Miss Powell, "My Trip to England."

5 p.m.—Adjournment.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND.

9.30 a.m.—Prayer Meeting.

10 a.m.—Convention.

Reports of Departments of—
Evangelistic Work.
Home Meetings.
Juvenile Work and Medal Contests.
Educational Meetings.
Sabbath Observance and Sunday Trading.
Missionary Work.
Work Among Young People.
Hygiene and Food Reform.
Maori Work.
Scientific Temperance Instruction.
Unfermented Wine.
Press Work.

Report of Committee on Resolutions.

12.—Noontide Hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2.15 p.m.—Reports of Departments of—
Mothers' Meetings.

Social Purity and Rescue Work.

Bible in Schools.

Narcotics.

Sailors' Rests.

3 p.m. Paper, "Public Health Acts," by Mrs Sheppard.

4 p.m.—Paper, "Some Indirect Methods of Temperance Reform," by Mrs Allen, LL. B. Sc.

5 p.m.—Adjournment.

PUBLIC MEETING,

FRIDAY EVENING, AT 8 P.M.

Place to be announced.

MONDAY, MARCH 25TH.

9.30 a.m.—Prayer Meeting.

10 a.m.—Convention.

Reports of Departments of—
Peace and Arbitration.

Literature.

Relief Work.

Legal and Parliamentary.

Prison Reform.

Resolutions.

11 a.m.—Election of Officers.

Election of Superintendents.

Unfinished business.

NOTE.—All business meetings will be held in the W.C.T.U. Girls' Association Rooms, Constable-street, Newtown.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

We have received the following letter from Miss Gordon, Miss Willard's companion and helper for so many years. Miss Gordon still continues her work as one of the Hon. Secretaries of the World's W. C. T. U., and we are glad to publish her loving message to our White Ribboners:—

Rest Cottage,

Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.

11th Jan., 1901.

My dear Comrades,—My heart goes out to all White Ribboners at this holiday time in gratitude and good-will, and from the home of the beloved

Founder of the World's W. C. T. U. I send you a message of affectionate greeting, not only for the New Year, but for the new century, bright with its blessed possibilities for the advancement of the principles and plans of our world-wide organisation.

Mrs Stevens, Vice President-at-Large of the World's W. C. T. U., and President of our own Society in the U.S.A., is my guest for a few weeks at Rest Cottage. We have just come from Washington, D. C., our capital city where the National W. C. T. U. has held a most successful Annual Convention, with the largest number of delegates and reporting the largest increase in paid membership in any year in the history of our organisation. There is a vitality in the work everywhere, a coming in of young women to positions of trust and responsibility, a growing unity and *sprit de corps*, for all of which we thank God and take courage.

The presence of such a host of White Ribboners in Washington while our National Congress was in Session, was strongly felt, and we were greatly pleased that during the week of our Convention the House of Representatives passed with a splendid majority an Amendment to the Army Bill prohibiting the sale of liquor to soldiers in the Army Canteen. We are now making every endeavour to convince the Senators that the people desire this provision to pass the Senate, and should the Bill pass both branches of our Congress we know that the Executive will enforce its provisions.

The outlook for the work of the W. C. T. U., in this country in its organisation, and in the Preventive, Educational, Social, Evangelistic and Legal lines, is wonderfully promising. We are planning to send out more than twenty National Organisers, and with Miss Clara Parrish at home again to inspire the young women, we hope they will be able to double their membership in many States.

I hope soon to write you again more at length concerning several subjects of vital interest to the World's W. C. T. U. Let us make this New Year tell grandly in the progress of our blessed work, remembering ever lovingly and gratefully the sainted Founder of our Organisation, and rallying closely around our beloved President, Lady Henry Somerset. Mrs Stevens joins me in affectionate New Year greetings.—Yours in sacred bonds,

ANNA A. GORDON.

"The Indifference of Women."

In an article under the above title, published in the *Boston Woman's Journal* of February 9th, 1901, some truths are set forth which might apply to some of our New Zealand women equally with our American sisters, for whom they were especially written. Having been so long enfranchised, it might have been supposed that our New Zealand women would have seen that the removal of all artificial disabilities would necessarily follow. The recent circulation of the petition to Parliament has shown that this is not so. There are women even in our Union who are as apathetic and indifferent to the removal of disabilities which hamper the usefulness of women as are the women referred to in the article from which we quote. Especially is this indifference to be found among women who have profited by the struggles of the early pioneers of the emancipation movement. To these, and to all others whom the cap may fit, we commend the following extract:—

"It is a simple historical fact that every improvement thus far made in the condition of women has been made, not in response to a demand of the majority, but in consequence of the arguments, entreaties, and 'continual coming' of a persistent few. Every phase of progress in succession has had to contend with the indifference of the majority of women, and often with active opposition from some of them.

"When a man in Saco, Me., first employed a saleswoman the men boycotted his store, and the women remonstrated earnestly with him on the sin of which he was guilty in placing a young woman in a position of such 'publicity' as behind a counter. When Lucy Stone tried to secure for married women the right to their own property, women asked with scorn, 'Do you think I would give myself where I would not give my property?' When Elizabeth Blackwell began to study medicine, the women at her boarding-house refused to speak to her, and women passing her on the streets held their skirts aside so as not to touch her. Mary Lyon's first efforts for the higher education of women were received with infinite ridicule, not only by the mass of men, but by the mass of women as well.

"In Eastern countries, where women are shut up in zenanas, and forbidden to walk the streets unveiled, the women themselves are among the strongest

upholders of these ridiculous restrictions, which they have been taught to think add to their dignity. The Chinese lady is as proud of her small feet as any American remonstrant is of her political disabilities. Pundita Ramabai tells us that the idea of education for girls is so unpopular with the majority of Hindoo women, that when a progressive Hindoo proposes to educate his little daughter it is not uncommon for the women of his family to threaten to drown themselves.

"George William Curtis said:—'The assertion that when a majority of women ask for equal political rights they will be granted, is a confession that there is no conclusive reason against their sharing them. And, if that be so, how can their admission rightfully depend upon the majority? Why should the woman who does not care to vote prevent the voting of her neighbour who does? Why should a hundred girls who are content to be dolls and do what Mrs Grundy expects prejudice the choice of a single one who wishes to be a woman and do what her conscience requires?'

"Many changes for the better have been made in legislation with regard to married women's property rights, etc.

"How has this work been accomplished? By the steady growth of public opinion, promoted and aided in a very great degree, if not entirely created, by the labour of the suffragists. I may add that, when the suffragists first began to move, the prejudice against altering the status of wives, and giving women the public offices into which they have since been introduced, was stronger than that which now resists granting them the ballot."

Criminology Society of Victoria.

A resumé of the work of this Society was recently given by Mr MacGeorge, the Honorary Secretary, from which we cull the following interesting information:—

"The one important event there is to chronicle is that after considerable preparation a largely attended deputation waited on the then Premier, Mr McLean, on the 12th September last, and asked him to appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into the penal system of Victoria, on the following grounds:—

"1.—That the principle of the present penal system is out of harmony with modern sentiment.

"2.—That, in the interests of both the State and the criminal, the present system should be so amended as to make the reform of the criminal the primary object in view.

"3.—That the modern study of criminology and the experience of other countries prove that the newer methods can be, and have been, made highly successful in protecting society and reforming the criminal.

"4.—That the present system tends to create criminals, and is, from an economic point of view, wasteful and burdensome to the taxpayer.

"The Premier promised this should be recommended to the House either at once, or at the latest on the return of Captain Evans from his examination of the systems of other countries. The Council will, it is to be presumed, urge the fulfilment of this promise on the present Ministry.

"The Society has opened correspondence with the Elmira State Reformatory, New York; the Humanitarian League, London; the Howard Association, London; with Captain Nietenstein, the Comptroller of Prisons of New South Wales; the New Zealand Comptroller; and with the kindred Society in Adelaide, from all of whom much most valuable literature has been received."—*Australian Herald*.

The London County Council And Women Sanitary Inspectors.

At the weekly meeting of the London County Council, on November 20, the Public Health Committee recommended that a letter should be addressed to the Local Government Board, expressing the Council's willingness to pay half the salaries of female sanitary inspectors, who, in addition to their other duties, would use such opportunities as presented themselves of inculcating habits of cleanliness and the best methods of utilising food. Mr Verney spoke strongly in favour of the proposal to utilise the services of women for these purposes. It was a movement that would do a great deal of good in the homes of the poor. The work of women in this direction had been utilised by many of the great provincial towns with every success.

Lord Meath thought that a great many of the evils connected with overcrowding might be overcome through the work of women visiting the homes of the poor.

The recommendation was adopted.—*Englishwoman's Review*.

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The spirit that has animated the body cannot fade and pass even as a shadow passeth. It is deathless in its essence. Therefore, let us put off our trappings of woe when our beloved ones go forward; let us cheer their passing with songs in praise of the life that comes from God, lives here with God, and returns to God.

Let us believe that this world is a spiritual world, that Love ever beats at the heart of things, and that each soul meets just those experiences which Infinite Love wills is best for him to meet.

But this view of things will not prevent us from doing our best to keep our beloved ones in the flesh with us. Under

present prevailing methods of treatment for disease it seems, indeed, that many a useful life is ended here by the very means that are supposed to help and strengthen the body.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Typhoid fever has been very prevalent in Christchurch during the last months, and strange modes, truly, are used in treating the sufferer. To take a typical case. The patient is put in a darkened room, drugs are administered, brandy is given as a food, and morphia is injected to induce sleep; against every particular of which procedure common sense cries aloud.

The patient should have the most cheerful room in the house, where the sun shines longest, the windows should be opened wide for the admission of God's air and sun, and if the light tries the patient's eyes the bed should be so arranged that the light does not fall directly on the sight. Then further natural means which bring thoughts of strength, and comfort, and healing to both nurse and patient, should be adopted.

The fever runs high and there is great pain. At such a time follow the advice of one of the noblest souls of the nineteenth century, Professor Kirk of Edinburgh, of whom it may also be said, "He went about doing good."

Apply cloths wrung out of cold water and vinegar to the head, neck and chest, spine, and abdomen of the sufferer, and see that the feet and legs are kept warm and comfortable by placing, if necessary, a hot water bag covered with a damp cloth, to the feet. As fast as the towels grow hot, cool them in the water and apply gently again, at the same time carefully protecting the bed. If the fever perseveres the nurse must persevere also and must

continue the application till the heat is reduced and the temperature is normal. If the patient has no desire for food, give nothing but sips of cold water with a little acetic acid in it or lemon and water. Probably the efforts to reduce the fever will have to be continued several hours, but in the end steady persistence wins.

Next day there may be a recurrence of the symptoms. Now vary the treatment by preparing a comfortably hot bath into which pour some barilla soap lather. Lave the patient well with the warm, soapy water, and then take a jug and douche thoroughly the spine, the neck, and chest, and the abdomen. After the warm bath let the patient sit in a sitz bath of cold water with the feet in a basin of warm water, and well cool the body in the bath. After gently rubbing and drying the patient sponge well over with vinegar and water. An injection of cold water will also materially help the sufferer. If there is pain in the head, keep it packed with cold cloths, which should be renewed as soon as they become uncomfortably warm.

This sort of treatment should be continued each day till all signs of fever are gone. If people would but follow these simple directions, how much pain they could relieve and how self-reliant they might become. Moreover, as there is no such thing as standing still in nature, those who do not despise the "day of small things" find that they "go from strength to strength," until at length wherever they go, their very presence is magnetic and healing.—A.W.

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It is the property of the New Zealand
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which has for its object
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