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WRITE FOR A PAIR TO

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**ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CAPE
PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**

The 24th Annual Convention of the Cape Provincial Women's Christian Temperance Union was held at Vitenhage during the closing days of September, and was attended by over fifty delegates from the various centres. The Conference opened on Saturday morning, when the Executive Committee met to consider some important matters to lay before the Convention, and in the evening a prayer meeting was held. On Sunday afternoon a united children's service was held, suitable addresses being given by Mrs Mackenzie, of Kimberley, and Mrs Howard Sprigg, of Capetown. Following on this service was another service held in the Town Hall, when the annual sermon was preached by Mrs Dewar, of King William's Town. On Monday morning the business sessions opened, presided over by Mrs Hartnoll and Mrs Sprigg, Vice-Presidents, in the absence of Miss Solomon, who had already left South Africa to attend the World's Convention. After the opening service of prayer and praise, the "Declaration of Principles" was read and the Pledge repeated by the delegates in unison. The Corresponding Secretary's report having been submitted and adopted, Mrs Hartnoll read for Miss Solomon her Presidential address, which was full of loving counsel, words of encouragement, and practical suggestions. In the course of this very able address Miss Solomon spoke of the great outstanding feature of the year, viz., the first Convention of the South African Women's Christian Temperance Unions, when delegates from all four Provinces had met in conference in Natal in May last. This gathering had marked a great forward step in the history of the White Ribbon movement in South Africa, and the bonds of union between the provinces had been strengthened. Referring to the Local Veto Campaign, Miss Solomon pointed out that although the

measure had been thrown out in the Senate, there was no need to be discouraged, but urged greater earnestness in the coming campaign, "for," continued the writer, "we do not acknowledge ourselves to be beaten. We have suffered a repulse, but we shall advance to the attack with greater ardour and the wisdom borne by experience. Let us make a point in every Union of studying the liquor problems, and the effect of Local Veto in other lands, where it has been tried, and then if we earnestly wish to see similar reforms here, let us work whole-heartedly to secure Local Veto in the Union of South Africa. There is educational work for all our branches to do. Do not wait until Parliament meets, but begin at once and supply our Senators with reliable information on the subject." Miss Solomon then alluded to the "Commission on Assaults on Women," saying it was impossible for any earnest man or woman to read this report without feeling that the whole question of the liquor traffic needed attention, and that a more determined attempt must be made to enforce the observance of existing laws in order to limit the evils as much as possible. As Christian women, we can not afford to be indifferent in this matter. There are many grave questions facing us to-day. So many wrongs to be righted, and evils to be faced; so many rights to be jealously guarded. Are we women of South Africa going to be big-minded and big-hearted enough to take our place and help in the solution of these problems? Alluding to the visit of Mr Maurice Gregory, of the "International Federation for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice," Miss Solomon urged upon all to take the opportunity of this visit to gain information on the subject, saying we would never rest until we had secured the repeal of these Acts, which are an insult to all true womanhood. The writer touched on Women's Suffrage. As a body the members of the W.C.T.U. were in favour of women having a voice in

the making of laws which they equally with men have to obey, and the movement is slowly but surely progressing. Women of every grade in life were needed who would help by their various experience and points of view. It was a matter of rejoicing that for over 20 years the W.C.T.U. had been a growing force for righteousness in South Africa, and if the places gained were to be held every new opportunity that presented itself should be seized. In closing this very comprehensive address, Miss Solomon made an earnest appeal to the younger women to come forward, and not allow anyone to make them think that the temperance question was a narrow one, but invite every girl to join, because she would find such wonderful opportunities for all her talents, be they few or many.

The reports of the various departments of work which were submitted during the four days' sessions were intensely interesting, showing progress in many directions. There had been a decided increase in membership. Some very important resolutions were passed, among them the following:—"That this Convention expresses its emphatic disapproval of any scheme for the nationalisation or municipalisation of the Liquor traffic, and urges the Unions to carry on a campaign in their localities against any proposal of this nature, because we stand for Prohibition."

The following officers were unanimously re-elected:—Pres., Miss Solomon, Capetown; Vice-Pres., Mrs Hartnoll, Capetown, and Mrs Sprigg, Capetown; Rec. Sec., Miss F. Stapleton, Capetown; Corres. Sec., Mrs Mackenzie, Kimberley; Treas., Mrs Geard, Port Elizabeth; Y. Secretaries, Mrs D. Brown, Capetown, and Miss Stead, Kimberley; Editors "White Ribbon," Mrs John Brown, Capetown, and Mrs Sprigg, Capetown.

F. C. STAPLETON.

"The only way to prevent what's past, is to put a stop to it before it happens."—Kipling.