

of right and justice, who are probably thoughtless and indifferent, but not hopelessly bad; and it is possible to in some way reach those; to tell them what terrible consequences their actions are bringing on these helpless girls; to rouse in them some finer feelings, and to bring them over to our side.

A suggestion will come before us in the form of a resolution from the Nelson Union, asking us to consider the advisability of appointing a superintendent for this subject, to gather information, and also to suggest preventive measures.

Whatever is decided on, I hope no woman will go from this Convention feeling that this is a thing that does not concern her. It concerns us all. We have it on fairly good authority that already this traffic has reached our shores; that over 20 girls have disappeared recently. I wrote for information. May I here give you an extract from the letter I received. The writer says:—

"Yes, girls are being stolen from New Zealand in connection with this infamous traffic. One of their agents, purporting to be with a 'company,' married a girl recently in the Bay of Islands, and that is the last that has been seen or heard of her. Frankton Junction seems to be the hot place. A man and his wife in that district are on the track of girls. One girl working for a lady I met in Te Aroha narrowly escaped their clutches. They were in correspondence with her, offering better work, better wages, etc., and the girl was ready to accept. But the lady—her mistress—saw one of the letters and suspected evil. She immediately sent the girl back to her parents, and when the man and his wife called to see 'their little friend,' her daughter, who was at home, to put them off the scent, said the girl had gone to work for another family in the town, but she had forgotten the address; if they would call the next morning, when her mother was in, perhaps she might be able to get it. Her mother is a very firm woman, and she wanted to meet them, but they never returned. The girl is still safely at home; but as her home is near Frankton Junction, there is no telling how long she may remain so. There have been cases in Auckland that leave scarcely a shadow of doubt, but it is extremely difficult to trace the cadets, and so one can do but little publicly."

The writer of this letter is doing what she can to warn parents and girls, but is not able to give as much time to it as she would wish.

I believe we are the largest and most influential woman's organisation in the Dominion, as we are in the world. What are we going to do as an organisation, and what as individuals? I do hope you will each do something, not from selfish motives, not to save those you love, not to add a star to your crown; but that you may have the inestimable privilege of having helped to raise a brother a little higher, of having helped to save a sister from falling.

TE HUI TAU.

I haere iho ahau ki Turanga kite hui tau onga Roopu wahine katoa otenei motu. I nuku atu ite ono tekau nga wahine i haeremai ite Waipounamu me Te Ika o Maui kite titiro kinga mahi i otu ia tatou i tera tau. I whakaae ratou kia tirohia e tetei tangata te ahua onga mahi onga tarara e hoko waina ana kinga tamariki wahine Maori. Tuarau—Kite tohu atu kinga rangatira hotera kia mutu rawa ta ratou hoko pounamu, kaho rama hoki, kinga Maori, kia mutu hoki ta ratou hoko waina kinga tamariki Maori kaore ano kia tae noa kite rua tekau ma tahi tau.

Kua rihaina ta tatou tumuaki, a Mrs Hughes, irunga itana paangia tonutia ite mate. Nui atu nga mihi aroha ki ta tatou hoa-aroha mete tumanako tonu kia pai ake tana timana a tenei tau. Ko tana riwhi ko Mrs Walker, Fox Street, Gisborne. Koia tetei wahine aroha ki te wi-Maori. Ite mahi tahi ratou konga Roopu wahine Maori o Turanga, no reira ki taku mohio kua whiwhi tatou ki tetei wahine mohio kite whakahaere tika ia tatou mahi iroto itenei karangatanga. Kite biahia koutou kite tuhi mai kia ia, kite patai mo etehi mea, me tuhi mai ki Turanga nei.

Kote hui otenei tau keite tumanako tonu kia tonu a koutou kaunihera kite kawanatanga kitetei pooti mo tana rohe, mo tana rohe, mo te taha turaki-waipiro. Kei a Noema te pooti mote turaki waipiro. Ko tetei takiwa o Ngatiporou kua pooti i tera tau noa atu, a i hinga ia ratou te waipiro. Na e mea ana ratou kanui ta ratou ora, me te pai katoa onga marae mai ano ite hinganga ote waipiro ite taha Maori. Kia penei katoa tatou e kaha kite pooti kia kore tatou e kahai kite kairama kanui nga painga e puta mai ai kia tatou, ara kite, iwi-Maori.

Ite tekau onga ra o Maehe ka haere atu nga wahine pakeha otenei hui kite Arai ki Hine ote Rangi, kia tutaki ratou konga mema Maori kite mihi-mihi kia ratou. Na Lady Carroll i pohiri nga manuhiri; ko Takuta Wirepa te. Kai whakamaori monga wahine pakeha i whai korero nei kia ratou tuakana Maori. Kanui te whakamahi ote perehitini, Mrs Don, ki ana tuakana-Maori kua mau nei ite Ripene Ma hei tohu pono ma ratou kite iwi kua whakaae ratou kite turaki waipiro. Ka whai-korero hoki etehi atu onga mema kia kaha, kia maia tonu nga tuakana me nga teina Maori kite awhina itenei take. I tae mai tetei onga mema ote Roopu-wahine o India kite whakamahi kia tatou, kite korero hoki ita ratou aroha kinga mema Maori menga mema pakeha otenei motu. I muri ite hui ka inuiti nga manuhiri, a ka hekimai kite taone.

I roto itenei hui i whakaaturia e ahau kite Perehitini nga mahi pai i oti inga mema onga Roopu-wahine Maori, ara, whakaako kura, ratapu, tiaki turoro, awhina inga aitu, mate, me etehi atu mahi hei whakaora ite iwi Maori. I a koutou mahi whakamiharo kite whakamutu ite mahi onga

tangata kite mau rama ki roto inga marae onga Roopu wahine. I hoatu hoki e ahau wa, koutou mihi kita tatou perehitini tawhito, Mrs Cole, kua haere nei kite wahi ngaro ki ta tatou Matua ite rangi. Kua tukua atu e matou nga mihi onga Roopu katoa otenei metu kinga Roopu o Engarangi, Aute-reiria, India.

Kote kupu mai otenei huinga kia koutou. E a matou teina, tuakana tuakana Maori, i roto ite Arika, he nui nga mihi aroha atu kia koutou. Kia kaha! Akakoa e kore taea e koutou te pooti tahi ia matou kei kore koutou e whiwhi mema Maori, kia mahara tonu koutou kite pooti onga kaunihera rohe. Ma matou e whakahaere kite taha pakeha kia hinga hoki nga hotera onga takiwa. Ka whawhai tonu tatou, e nga hoa wahine Maori, kia kore rawa te rama e tae mai a muri a tenei tau. Kei te mahi tonu matou kia mate raano a matau tinana ka mutu ai tenei whawhai kite waipiro. Tenei kia ora ano koutou mo nga manaakitanga ki to koutou kai whakahaere. Kia ora ano i raro inga manaakitanga ote tatou Matua ite rangi.

Kaati, e aku whanaunga, ka mutu iho ikonei nga mihi. Kei te haere atu ahau ki Ngatiperau kite whakatu roopu i waenganui ia ratou, kamutu ka ahau atu ki Opotiki. Ka pau pea nga marama erua ki enei takiwa. Kaore ano he Roopu o enei takiwa erua.

MAARI WOODHEAD,

Kaiwhakahaere.

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