

## Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

Owing to pressure on our space, several letters are unavoidably held over.

FOR THE TERM OF HER NATURAL LIFE.  
(To the Editor).

Madam,—With your permission I desire to make an appeal to the readers of this journal on behalf of a young woman, who on the 10th of June last was at the Supreme Court, Napier, sentenced to imprisonment for the term of her natural life. These are the facts as reported in the daily papers at the time. This girl, Alice Parkinson by name, was attached to a young man who got her into trouble under a promise of marriage, and subsequently refused to keep the promise. She had borne an unblemished character previously—her employers testifying to this at the trial—and had spent all her savings in furnishing a home in the belief that the promise of marriage would be kept. The child, born after an extremely painful labour, died, and in desperation she procured a revolver and threatened to shoot the author of her troubles unless he made the reparation desired. Why any woman should wish to tie herself for life to a person capable of such conduct is a mystery, but the fact remains. He repulsed her in the grossest of language, and she shot him. The jury evidently did not think she meant to kill the young man, as their verdict was "Guilty of Manslaughter" with a strong recommendation to mercy, on account of the great provocation which she had received. The judge ignored this recommendation, and inflicted the severest sentence in his power.

Petitions to the Governor are being largely signed, and there is a strong movement on foot in Napier, Auckland and Wellington to have this sentence reduced, and the jury's recommendation put into effect. Will the W.C.T.U. help by making a protest against the severity of the sentence. Alice Parkinson is a woman and a sister, and has already been heavily punished by the laws of nature. Moreover, it is very doubtful if she was in her right mind at the time of the tragedy, or if she intended to kill the man. The worst that can be said of her is that she was the elder of the two by three years, but he was in his twenty-second year and legally a man able to shoulder his just responsibilities had he wished to do so.

I would simply ask your readers to consider what the founder of the W.C.T.U. would have thought, and how she would have acted in such a case. Would she have averted her head and allowed stern justice to take its course, or would she not rather have said with Portia—

"Though justice be thy plea, consider this,

That in the course of justice none of us

Should see salvation. We do pray for mercy,

And that same prayer doth teach us all to render

The deeds of mercy."

I am, madam,  
Yours sincerely,

E. GIBSON,

Hon. Sec., Auckland Women's Political League.

P.S.—The petition will be presented to the Governor in September. If each of the Branches would pass a resolution protesting against the severity of the sentence, and requesting the Government to give effect to the recommendation of the jury, and send a copy of the resolution to the Minister of Justice, it might do some good. On receiving the petition the Governor will naturally consult the heads of the Department of Justice, and the greater the number of people who have asked for mercy the greater the possibility that mercy will be shown.

### MORE WOMEN WANTED.

(To the Editor).

Madam,—I was pleased to see Miss Powell's letter on "Hauling Down the Flag." These are not times to contemplate disbanding. The times are too strenuous—evil is too evident. The need for godly women to work for "God, Home and Humanity" was never greater than to-day. These are great days for the temperance workers. Just as Kitchener sends out his message for "Men and More Men," so does our work demand "Women and More Women." We want every woman who is sheltered in a good home to think deeply how much good she might do for less fortunate sisters; for the children who gladden our land; for our Dominion, in which we live, if only she would be unselfish enough to come out and join hands with these women workers who are nobly doing all they can to help to make it easy to do right and hard to do wrong. If our own "White Ribboners" can quietly lay down their arms it means surrender. Surrender to the other side. God forbid that any Christian woman should do that while the sale of strong drink is licensed in our land. Our cause is just; God is with us. Oh my sisters, let us go again to the cross of Jesus, Whose we are and whom we serve, and there let us kneel until we have left all our failures, all our discouragements, all our unfaithfulness. Jesus knows all about it, but let us stay at the Cross until we can go out filled with the Spirit. He can use us then. He will use us, and we won't want to lay down our arms. Someone will take courage from yours. Someone will rally to your call. A Spirit-filled life must be felt. We must marshal every force we have, and keep on

month by month increasing them, and when next election comes, go right up, and possess the land for God, Home, and Humanity.

Yours in Christ's happy service,  
FLORENCE PASLEY,  
Pres. South Invercargill Union

### CHILDREN AND PICTURE SHOWS.

(To the Editor).

Madam,—I would like to draw your attention to a meeting which was held by the Wellington Teachers' Institute, and reported in the "Evening Post" of June 12, in which the following resolution, passed by the Auckland Institute, and endorsed by the Wellington, "That the Association express its dissatisfaction with the censorship of films shown at the Cinematograph theatres in New Zealand to which young children are admitted without restriction, and urges that children under 15 be admitted only to specially censored performances" I may say that the Palmerston North District Union, with its auxiliaries, has also passed a resolution fully endorsing what has been done by the Teachers' Institute, and inserted the same in local papers, and sent a copy to the Secretary of the Auckland Institute. This subject has frequently been discussed at Conventions, and resolutions passed. Now that the teachers have moved in the matter, the time seems opportune for Unions to do something on the lines suggested by the Institute.

I remain, yours, etc.,  
W. M. HILLS,  
Corr. Sec., Palm North.  
Palmerston North, July 11.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Sisters,—

I have written to most of the Unions re Temperance Instruction, and hope by this time you have received and considered my letter; those who took up the matter last year pray do it again this year. It has been suggested to me that "Alcohol and the War" would be a good subject for an essay, so it would be done by volunteers or if the teachers would give the scholars some instruction. The Wall Sheets have the approval of the Education Department, and I hope you are all at work.

Yours in W.R. bonds,  
J. E. MANDER,  
Supt. Science Temp. Instruction.

Mary had a little waist,  
Most puzzling to her beau,  
For everywhere the fashion went  
Her waist was sure to go.