

## A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM.

One afternoon, a few months ago, a lady in deep distress, accompanied by a little child, entered one of the public-houses in South London and asked for assistance. She accompanied her plea with the statement, "I have no home, no friends, and I am unable to work." The publican, unaccustomed to appeals of this character, treated her request with scant courtesy, and, turning aside, said to the barmaid, "Business is slow this afternoon. I wish things would wake up." The unwelcome visitor repeated her request, whereupon the publican put his hand into the till, withdrew a copper, and handed it to her with a mingled look of curiosity and pity.

A man standing at the bar with a glass of whisky in front of him, enquired of the woman, "What brings you here in this condition this afternoon?" Pointing to his glass of whisky, she replied, "Why, whisky! That is what brought me here. I was once happy and surrounded by all the luxuries that wealth could procure; my husband was one of the kindest men I have ever known. But in an evil hour he was tempted, and fell, and in two short years my dream of happiness was over, my husband lost his position, and then he died, and now fills a drunkard's grave. As for me, I am only a wreck of my former self, homeless and friendless, and with nothing left me in the world but this little child."

And weeping as if the fountain of her soul was broken up, she affectionately caressed the golden curls that shaded a face of exquisite loveliness. Then, regaining her composure, she turned to the publican behind the bar, and said:

"Sir, the reason I have come here to-day is to ask you, not so much for help, as to plead with you to stop this business, which spreads ruin, poverty, starvation, and desolation everywhere. You are taking the bread out of the mouths of the famished wives and children of your customers. You are stripping the clothes from their backs, and spreading unhappiness, misery, crime, and desolation among their once happy homes."

By this time the bar had filled with customers. Their attention was attracted and held by the pathetic story and appeal of this sorrow-stricken woman. Some with curiosity, some

with sadness, and some with pity beaming in their eyes, had watched this poor woman as they heard her relate her tragic story and make her appeal.

One of the men suggested the child should sing, and she sang in a sweet, child-like voice that well-known hymn:

"Yield not to temptation,  
For yielding is sin,  
Each victory will help you  
Some other to win." etc., etc.

The men and women who filled the bar were entranced with the musical voice and beauty of the child, and at the close men and women who had not shed a tear for years now wept like children. One young man, who had resisted the entreaties of a loving mother and friends, approached the child, and taking both her hands in his, with tears streaming down his pale cheeks, exclaimed with deep emotion, "God bless you, my dear little angel, you have saved me from ruin and disgrace. I will never take another drop of drink while I live." Another man, who had been given up as utterly beyond the reach of those who were anxious for his welfare, exclaimed, "I have drank my last glass; from this day I will be a sober man."

—J.J.

## DROPPED STITCHES.

I dropped a stitch in my knitting

As I sat at work one day,

And it seemed such a little matter,

I sang as I worked away;

But lo, when my work was finished,

I saw, with infinite pain,

The stitch I had missed in the morning

Had rendered it all in vain!

That all of my perfect stitches

Were useless because of one,

That one little flaw had cost me

The loss of my heart's "Well

done!"

Just so it is in our lives, dear,

But the stitches dropped, ah me!

Are part of the soul's own garment

We weave for eternity.

The stitch of unbridled passions,

Of an evil, bitter thought,

The stitch of neglected duties

Are into the pattern wrought!

The stitch of the first cigar, lad,

The stitch of your first strong

drink,

And the work of your life is ruined—

Does it pay, dear, do you think?

Alas! for the stitch unheeded,

Ah, me, for the mischief done,

For the glad hopes of the morning,

For heartache at set of sun!

**Auckland District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.,** W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Wellesley Chambers, Wellesley Street (entrance Lor. St.); Pres., Mrs. Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Rd., Ponsonby; Treas., Mrs. Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; "W.R." Agent, Miss Davies, Onslow Rd., Mt. Roskill.

**Avondale, 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m.,** Brown Street Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs. Stevens; Rec. Sec., Miss B. Gittos; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Proctor, Treas., Mrs. Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs. Morgan.

**Auckland, Y's.**—Last Monday at 7.45 p.m. in W.C.T.U. Headquarters. Pres., Miss I. Fergus; Vice-Presidents, Misses I. Cook, and O. Scott; Supt., Mrs. Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; Rec. Secretary, Miss L. Street; Cor. Secretary, Miss M. Bottrill, 31 Arthur St., Ponsonby; Treas., Mrs. D. Stubbs, Shoal Bay Rd., Devonport; "W.R." Supt., Miss Budd.

**Ashburton, 2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.,** in Victoria Hall; Pres., Mrs. W. T. I. E. Wilowby; Cor. Sec., Mrs. G. Bowman, Peter St., E.; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevarza, 169 Peter St.; Treas., Mrs. W. J. Brown, Walnut Av.; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

**Avondale Y's, 2nd Wednesday, 7.45 p.m.,** in Bond Board Room, Blake Street. Pres. Miss Elsie Stevens, Vice-Pres. Misses Ada Adams, Lilla Russel & Rowley; Rec. Sec., Miss G. Wright; Cor. Sec., Miss M. Cottrill, New Wind-or Rd., Avondale; Treas. Miss M. McCarthy, Station Rd.; W.R. Supt., Miss R. Thomas; Y. Supt., Mrs. Pirrott, Market Rd., Epsom.

**Blenheim District, 1st Tuesday, 5 p.m.,** Pres. Mrs. A. J. Littlefield, Livermere; Sec. Mrs. H. S. Horn Springlands, Blenheim; Treas., Mrs. Hay, Stephenson St.; Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer and Hancock; W.R. Agent, Mrs. W. Parker, Grove Rd.

**Cambridge, 1st Tuesday, in month in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m.,** Pres. Mrs. A. T. Watson; Sec. Mrs. G. Beer; Treas., Mrs. C. H. Bycroft; Cradle Roll, Mrs. W. Hogan; W.R. Agent, Mrs. A. T. Watson.

**Christchurch W.C.T.U. Rooms, 247 Manchester St., opp. His Majesty's Theatre, Second and fourth Wednesday, Prayer Meeting, on the third Wednesday, Pres., Mrs. T. E. Taylor, Cashmere Hills; Cor. Sec., Mrs. R. Day, Millford St., St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop, 12 Bealey St.; Treas., Miss M. B. Lovell-Smith, Box 114; Assistant-Treas., Miss Gordon, Holly Lew, Manchester St.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs. Day, Millford St., St. Albans.**

**Dannevirke, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 8 p.m.,** Pres., Mrs. Richards; Rec. Sec., Miss McFhee, Princes St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Wiseman, High St.; Treas., Miss Burdett.

**Dunedin District, 1st Tuesday, No-license Rooms, Moray Place, 8 p.m.,** Pres., Mrs. Hiatt, 264 George Row; Cor. Sec., and Press Cor., Mrs. Chisholm; Rec. Sec., Nurse Williamson; Supt. **WHITE RIBBON**, Mrs. Anderson, 82, Duke St.; Treas., Mrs. Young, Bishopscourt, Roslyn.

**Devonport, 2nd Thursday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 2.30 p.m.,** Pres., Mrs. Barr, Victoria Rd., Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Budd, Elliot, Sheppard, George and Young; Sec., Mrs. Burnett, Jubilee Av.; Treas., and Supt. W.R., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay; Supt. Cradle Roll, Miss Lilliwail.

**Eden, 3rd Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.,** Methodist Schoolroom, Dominion Rd. Pres., Miss Wilson, Wilford Rd., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Scaulen, 2 Mars Avenue, Edendale N.; Rec. Sec., Mrs. Fowles, 270 Balmoral Rd., Edendale N.; Treas., Mrs. Cartwright, Huia Villa, Dominion Rd.; "W.R." Agent, Mrs. Hudson, Richmond Rd., Mt. Eden.

**Feilding, 1st Thursday, 2.10 p.m.,** St. Paul's Hall. Pres., Mrs. Barton, "Brabourne," Monmouth St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Clara Neal, Manchester St.; Rec. Sec., Miss R. Mayo, "Nga-Kuri-Nui"; Treas., Miss Svendsen, East St.; "W.R." Agent, Miss Evensden; Pres., Mrs. Reeve; Evangelistic, Mrs. Emerson; Cradle Roll, Mrs. Mai; L.T.L., Miss Thompson.

**Gisborne District, 1st Tuesday, 2.45 p.m.,** Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs. Griffe, Ormond Rd.; Sec., Miss W. J. Bosie, 256 Efton Street; Treas., Mrs. F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Rd.

**Greymouth District, Business only 1st Tuesday, Prayer Meeting 2nd Tuesday in Miller's Rest Hall; Pres., Mrs. Caspin; Sec., Mrs. Mason, Cobden; Treas., Mrs. A. Parkinson, Terapuhi St.; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs. T. Brown; Vice-Presidents, Sister M. Cody Bell and Mrs. Parkinson.**