

gelist, Dr. Chapman and Mr. Alexander have recently conducted a series of meetings in Portland, the chief city of Maine, the home of Neal Dow and of our grand defender of the "Maine Law"—Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens. On one Sunday afternoon when Dr. Chapman had an audience of 3800 men, he made the statement that he had fought the battles of the State of Maine in far-away Australia; that one of the emissaries of the saloon interests was travelling up and down that Continent showing pictures alleged to have been taken in Maine, and telling people that liquor was sold openly in all the Maine cities. Said Dr. Chapman: "I dared to stand up and say that it was a damnable lie; I have dared to stand up before Australian and American audiences and say, of course liquor is sold in Maine and it will be so long as men choose to be demons, but if I were to choose a city in which to bring up my two boys, I would choose one where there are no saloons, and where you would have to sneak in to get a drink. Ten thousand shames on the men of Maine if they ever vote to allow the saloons to be licensed in their State." The great audience broke into hearty cheers, and cries of "Amen," "That's right!" resounded from every part of the auditorium, packed to its fullest capacity.

Not only is the temperance cause everywhere advancing as seen in the individual life, in the home, in social circles, among business corporations, in educational centres, and in State and Governmental legislation, but from our beloved W.C.T.U., in all its Departments, come words of good cheer and reports of encouraging progress.

The World Missionary Conference to meet in Edinburgh in June will probably be attended by many of our Delegates who realise the vital connection between the progress of the temperance reform and the success of missionary effort.

May your work be greatly blessed dear Comrade. Mrs. Stevens joins me in a message of loving remembrance and affectionate good wishes.

Hoping to meet you in Glasgow, I am, yours in loving service,

ANNA A. GORDON.

## News of the Unions.

[The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.]

### NGAERE.

The "Cradle Roll picnic" was held at Mrs Xavier Jones' on 3rd February, and passed off successfully, the weather being perfect. Mrs H. Stanners, Eltham, gave a stirring and helpful address to the mothers, and was listened to with great interest. The Roll now numbers 38. Afternoon tea was dispensed and games for the little ones brought a most enjoyable afternoon to a close.

At the meeting held 1st March at Mrs Manly's home, three new names were added to the Roll, one that of a gentleman—the first honorary member for Ngaere. Mrs Phillips, Superintendent of Evangelistic Work, spoke of the "Pocket Testament League," which is a plan to make God's Word a more vital part of daily life by inducing people to carry His Word about in their pockets and to read at least one chapter daily, that by "searching the Scriptures" and applying the truth honestly to every thought, word, and deed, all may be brought into harmony with the Divine mind. The scheme was originated years ago in Birmingham, England, by Mr Charles M. Alexander, but was made a world-wide movement in Philadelphia last year by Dr Chapman and Mr Alexander. The League is for all classes and ages. There are no fees nor dues, no meetings nor officers. The League has secured a supply of special Pictorial Pocket Testaments, which it sells at cost price to members of the League for personal use or for distribution. Mrs Phillips has sent for some of these and it was decided to take up the work as soon as they arrive. All the members agreed it was one of the most practical methods of which they had ever heard for encouraging a systematic, regular, and conscientious reading of God's Word and increasing interest in spiritual things. In view of the near approach of the beginning of April and election of School Committees three members of the Union were appointed to find out the views of likely men and women on the "Nelson system" of Bible in schools, compulsory scientific temperance instruction, &c., and report. The Union to nominate a committee and turn out the night of the election in full force to register votes.

### ASHBURTON.

Our postponed monthly meeting was held in Baring Square schoolroom, February 22nd. Mrs W. T. Lill occupied the chair and gave some interesting reminiscences of Convention. Mrs Oldham, Editor of WHITE RIBBON, was present, and received a warm welcome. She briefly outlined the part the WHITE RIBBON should play in W.C.T.U. work, urging upon her hearers the necessity of being subscribers and thus keeping in touch with the aims and objects of the Union. She also spoke of the work undertaken on behalf of the native race, and said that further opportunity of hearing more of the Maori work would be given at the visit to Ashburton of Miss Stirling. In cele-

bration of "Frances Willard Day," Miss Kershaw, M.A., gave an interesting and instructive address on the life of our honoured founder, from her early days in Forest Home, Illinois, to the closing scenes of the life of that fascinating woman—whose memory the world loves to honour and whose work is still moving the nations. Miss Kershaw gave vivid glimpses of the great reformer, as daughter, sister, and comrade, as student, teacher, and orator. Two members were initiated.

Our usual monthly meeting was held on March 8th, Mrs W. T. Lill presiding. A letter was received from the Householders' League, Wellington, drawing attention to the near approach of the annual election of School Committees and suggesting that public notice be drawn to the subject of Bible reading in schools, also, if possible, that the Nelson system be adopted, and the return of those members of Committee in sympathy with the movement be worked for. Mrs Lill spoke briefly on the scheme adopted on trial at Convention, viz., equalisation of delegates' expenses. Mrs G. W. Andrews, delegate to Convention, gave a lengthy and interesting report, which was adopted.

### WESTPORT.

The monthly meeting was held March 2nd, when a pleasant and profitable time was spent. It was decided for the future to hold the meetings in the evenings instead of the afternoon, as being more suitable to the majority of members. The Secretary was instructed to write to clergymen in country districts with reference to circular re Bible reading in schools. Books, magazines, etc., are distributed on Sunday mornings among the sailors on boats in port and this effort on their behalf is very much appreciated by them. We are looking forward to good meetings and profitable results.

### OTAUTAU.

We have had the pleasure of a visit from Miss Powell. She held a series of meetings, which were well attended, and the members of our little branch in Otautau feel grateful to her for her untiring energy and zeal on their behalf.

On Tuesday evening Miss Powell gave an address to girls on the subject of "Girls and Their Lovers," and spoke very earnestly and strongly, especially in warning girls against a careless or hasty choice of their life partners.

Thursday, the monthly meeting, was held in the Presbyterian Hall, Miss Powell presided. The President was elected for the coming year, a unanimous vote being given for Mrs W. S. Baird. A resolution was carried, "That this Union desire to place on record an appreciation to the memory of our late President, Mrs Donnan. We, as a Union, feel deeply the loss we have sustained by her removal from our midst; we all know how much our Union owes to her untiring energy and zeal, and it is to her the Band of Hope mainly owes its success. It was indeed to her a labour of love, and although she must often have been weary and suffered much pain, she never faltered, but kept steadily on to the end." The best tribute we can pay to her memory is to devote ourselves more earnestly and faithfully to any work we may have given us to do for the great cause. Miss Powell then gave us a very interesting address on the rise of the W.C.T.U. movement in America and New Zealand. Also an account of a recent tour which she had made in the North Island,