

head a truly remarkable woman, the venerable Madam Kaji Yajima. The men's Temperance League is a great power for righteousness, and in the Foreign Auxiliary of American and English women we have splendid advisers and helpers who are too busy with their own special duties to do much towards helping raise money for Headquarters or in doing practical W.C.T.U. work. We hope the project of Headquarters in Japan will find a host of friends among our workers.

During our Milwaukee Convention a meeting of the United States World's W.C.T.U. Committee was held, with Mrs. Stevens in the chair. This Committee unanimously recommended to the World's W.C.T.U. the creation of a new department for Juvenile Courts, Anti-Child Labour, etc. The drink curse is at the foundation of infinite suffering among little children, and such a department has a very direct bearing upon our work. Mrs. Ella A. Boole, President of the New York State W.C.T.U., announced that Brooklyn would invite the next Convention of the World's W.C.T.U., and the Committee recommended the acceptance of the invitation. Mrs. K. L. Stevenson recommended the securing of life memberships in the World's W.C.T.U. Dr. Purington and Miss Ives received the thanks of the Committee for the successful exhibit for the World's and National W.C.T.U. at the time of "The World in Boston." Thanks and messages of love were ordered to be sent to each of the World's officers and World's White Ribbon missionaries. Tender reference was made to our loss in the passing onward of Mrs. Emilie D. Martin, and the Conference placed on record its deep appreciation of her work.

The year just closing is memorable as one of victory in the tremendous fight in Maine, when all liquordom united in an effort to break down constitutional prohibition in the State of its birth. Our gratitude to Mrs. Stevens for her splendid leadership in this campaign knows no bounds. Her far-seeing plans were all well carried out by the White Ribboners, who worked "like heroes and like angels." The boys and girls of the State took a vital part in the conflict. Voting day, September 11th, or a near date, will hereafter be observed by the Maine W.C.T.U. all over the State as a jubilee day for

the young people. On this day they will commemorate the victory which they, as Young Campaigners for Prohibition, helped to gain. On Sunday, September 10th, in Mrs. Stevens' home city of Portland, at the close of a great meeting, Mrs. Stevens read the enclosed proclamation for National Constitutional Prohibition in the United States. The enthusiasm with which this proclamation is being everywhere received would be difficult to describe.

We shall all work with renewed faith in God toward this much-to-be desired end, the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage in the United States.

With best wishes for a Blessed New Year,

Yours affectionately,  
ANNA A. GORDON.

## Correspondence.

(The Editor does not hold herself responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.)

### The Suffragettes.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam, — Let me assure Mrs. Cole and your readers generally that in writing as I did in my letter to the April number of the "White Ribbon" I was under no misapprehension. I had before me an extract from Mrs. Cole's Presidential address, published in the "Otago Witness." It contains the passage to which Mrs. Cole refers me—"Let us never utter a disparaging word of them or their methods," . . . and it was those words and the preceding glorification of the Suffragettes that called forth my protest. If we are not to disparage the Suffragettes, we must hold them justified. I do not "disparage"; I repudiate and denounce their principles and conduct. In her whole defence of these, Mrs. Cole implicitly adopts the Jesuitical—or, as I termed it, "the devil's own" plea of expediency—a good end justifies bad methods.

So far from retracting anything, I wish I could find stronger words to protest against the evil of allowing our sympathies with a cause to betray us into paltering with eternal laws of right and wrong.

I regret to find Mrs. Cole reiterating the sophistical plea that we must not judge the British Suffragettes because their conditions are so different from ours. No difference of conditions excuses defiance of the laws of God and man.

I have had somewhat fuller means of acquiring information about the "militant" party than those possessed by the ordinary newspaper reader. But the information given by our daily papers is alone sufficient to uphold me. It is futile to talk of exaggeration and bias. Are we to believe that the Press Association systematically forges records of law cases and reports of the leaders' statements?

Putting violence on one side, the Suffragette campaign of obstruction and retaliation is ignoble and mischievous; certainly not a plan of action that should commend itself to the leader of an organisation formed to uphold the highest standards of civic morality. Mrs. Cole may reply that obstruction and retaliation are recognised weapons of modern political parties. But it is commonly urged as a recommendation of woman suffrage that it will raise and purify politics. It is a sad blow to such hopes to see women seeking to gain admission into the political field by resorting to the worst methods of male politicians.

But I desire to lay stress on the illegal acts of the Suffragettes; their conspired attacks on the public by window smashing and other acts of violence. No grievances whatever can excuse rioting and defiance of those fundamental laws of society without which it could not hold together for a day. If one class is justified in resorting to violence to vindicate its claims, so are all classes. Cannot Mrs. Cole see what her apology for such conduct implies?

You, madam, will not desire a prolonged controversy, and I do not think it will be needful for me to reply to any future letters on this subject. Wishing that some recognised leader among us had anticipated me in protest,—I remain, yours, etc.,

EDITH HODGKINSON,

May 29, 1912. A Suffragist.

(To the Editor.)

Madam,—The April number of "The White Ribbon," 1912, contains the address given by the President of the N.Z. Women's