

former possessor in an infinitely worse plight than if he or she had never had such beliefs. But such uprooting is not necessary, for Higher Criticism is not a thing to be feared, but to be welcomed, for experience is proving to us that, far from destroying the strongholds of our faith, it is strengthening them; and only those who were never within the ramparts of those strongholds lose their ground. For, if we are honest at all with ourselves, we must admit that when Christian doctrine fails it is not the weakness of the teaching, but the imperfect way in which individuals carry out that teaching, and if failure occurs it is failure in application.

In conclusion, may it not be pleaded that the proof of any doctrine is the results which it produces. For 1900 years the Bible, and especially the New Testament, has moulded nations, and that nation which best fulfilled its precepts for the time being has always predominated. Decadence due to neglect of those precepts and ideals brought most surely a temporal downfall. We have a goodly heritage, which surely we wish our children to enjoy too. How can they hold our place if we keep out of their hands "the Sword of the Spirit," without which the sword of the soldier is useless? How can they live up to the best when we withhold the loftiest ideals from them? Have we the courage to face even our own conscience in this matter if we neglect the command, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

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### A REAL TOAST.

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Here's to the woman with many a care,  
Who sits all day in an office chair,  
And at night, when her day's work there is through,  
Goes home and finds more work to do;  
Gets up in the morning and cooks and scrubs,  
And wrestles around with laundry tubs;  
Yet the usual hour finds her smiling there,  
Beside her desk, in the office chair.  
If she's strong enough these burdens to tote,  
Here's to the State where they let her vote!

### HAMILTON DISTRICT CONVENTION.

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The Annual District Convention was held on the 8th inst. in the Baptist Church at Morrinsville. Mr Guy Thornton welcomed the visitors and delegates on behalf of the Ministers' Association. Speaking briefly on the Union motto, "For God, Home, and Humanity," he said it is woman who can stretch out a hand to the suffering and distressed; woman who can soothe with loving kindness and sympathy, and in the Union women can work effectually in temperance, moral and social reforms.

Mr Butler then extended a welcome on behalf of the Bible in Schools League. He spoke of the splendid Christian sentiment in Morrinsville. No-License was carried at the last election by 4 to 1. They did not want the drink in their town, but because of the three-fifths handicap, they had to have it. Morrinsville was a bonny little town; in fact, the bonniest in Waikato.

The Secretary (Miss Henderson) read the minutes of last Convention.

#### President's (Mrs Jones) Address.

In looking over the past year, we see the work God has enabled the Union to do, and we give Him thanks. Hospital visitors have done their work nobly, and it has been appreciated by the patients. Flowers, fruit, and sometimes eggs and jelly, have brought smiles to pale faces to feel that though in a strange land, far from their "ain folk," they are not forgotten. She spoke of Sabbath desecration, urging members to uphold Sabbath observance. Many children had a sad state of upbringing, and the moral tone was not good. Drink was the chief cause of misery. It not only degrades the man who takes it, but it drags down every member of the family, and every child has a right to a clean, sober life. She also hoped that before long God's Word would be placed in our State schools. Hundreds of children were growing up without a knowledge of the Bible. Evangelistic and mothers' meetings, and various homes have been held, and addresses given by women of comfort and cheer.

Motions of sympathy were passed to the family of our late beloved President, also Lady Scott and Mr Nicholls, who recently lost his life in a bicycle accident.

After Miss Henderson sang a solo, the reports were received from the following Unions:—Cambridge (Mrs Watson), Nga uawahia (Mrs Sutton), Huntly (Mrs Sutton), Morrinsville (Mrs Butler), Kihiki (Mrs Sutherland), Y. Branch and Cradle Roll (Mrs Auld and Mrs Currie), Hospital (Mrs Sayers), Back Blocks (Mrs Jones). All showed encouraging work done. Large bundles of literature had been sent to the backblocks, and sacks of clothing and money to families in great need.

Mrs Brown said though there was no hotel in Matamata, there was plenty of drink there, but there were also plenty of workers heartily supporting the Bare Majority.

Mrs Horne read a paper by Mrs Wilson on the "Feeble-minded." A discussion followed, and a resolution was put as follows:—"That a Home be provided by the Government for the feeble-minded, and to be made self-supporting." Carried unanimously.

Prison Reform.—A resolution was put also: "That women in prison be placed in one city, where they could receive attention from lady doctors, be taught various branches of domestic science, so that when they come out into the world they have the opportunity of earning an honest living, and so start life afresh." Carried unanimously. To be sent to the Minister of Justice.

Bible in Schools League platform was discussed. Mrs Auld proposed: "We affirm the resolution of last year." This was seconded and carried, there being only two dissentients.

Mrs Auld read a paper on "How to Help the Temperance Cause." Drink was the destroyer of men and the misery of women, and to take for our motto the motto of America's great President, Abraham Lincoln, "I've promised my God I'll do it."

A vote of thanks was passed to the hostesses by Mrs Horne, and the next Convention was arranged to be held in Hamilton. The meeting closed with the Doxology and Benediction.

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### A NEW BEATITUDE.

"Blessed are the manly, for they shall be friends of the Son of Man."  
"Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."  
—Horace Mann.