
OBITUARY.

MISS ALMENA BUTTERICK.

After a long and wearisome illness, extending over many months, there passed from earth in the early dawn of Thursday, February 7th, the ransomed soul of Miss Butterick. Possessing a rare and a beautiful spirit—more precious than rubies—Miss Butterick has bequeathed to those who knew her a rich legacy in consecrated service, and a boundless faith and confidence in the goodness and power of God. No creed permitted scope sufficient to satisfy the yearnings of her longing, eager soul, which was ever reaching upward and Heavenward for a closer and more realistic contact with the Infinite.

The central figure in the home for many years, it was there that Miss Butterick's outstanding characteristics revealed themselves most prominently, and with excellent results, to all who came under her influence. A burning desire for spiritual progress and goodwill to all greatly enriched the home life. A more unselfish character rarely walked this earth. Little deeds of kindness, little acts of Christian charity, thoughtfulness for others, at home and elsewhere, stamped the record of her daily life. "To the stranger at the gate" her kindly hospitality and cheery welcome claimed life-long gratitude and loyalty. Her generous liberality towards every deserving cause marked her as one who deeply realised her responsibility to Him Who giveth all. Her sympathies were broad, and deep, and lasting, and were lavished richly upon all. The needs of the weak and suffering, the tempted and down-trodden especially, lay near her heart, and such never appealed to her in vain. From her rich storehouse there ever flowed a love and compassion which had its source in the heart of the Eternal.

In a quiet, unostentatious way she brought hope and joy to many a weary troubled soul. Out of the depths of her varied experiences she felt impelled to help others nearer the Great Burdenbearer, and toiled ceaselessly that the "crooked places might be made straight, and the rough way smooth" for those who follow after.

Miss Butterick was an ideal member of our Ashburton Union. Always

present when circumstances permitted; hopeful when shadows gathered; courageous when difficulties presented themselves; conscientious, self-effacing, but ready to do to the utmost that which lay in her power to do. The cause of Temperance, of Purity, and Peace all lay near to her heart, and her unshaken confidence in Divine love and wisdom ever served to put new life and hope into many a discouraged heart. For a period of 15 years she filled the position of "White Ribbon" Agent with marked success and ability. Every subscriber a "paid up" one was always her aim, and she never spared herself until that goal was achieved. The deep interest she ever took in her work, and the practical help rendered in many cases, revealed a nature thorough and generous in the extreme.

Our sister has passed to higher, nobler service, but she has left us a memory, sweet and fragrant, of good deeds done, of heights achieved, and an inspiring example to all. Well may we pray that her mantle of consecrated service may descend upon us, and that we, in faith and humility, may follow on "in quiet ways of service sweet," honouring her Lord and advancing His cause.

A largely attended and very impressive "In Memoriam" service was conducted in the Wakanui Methodist Church on February 17th by Rev. T. W. Vealie. At the close letters of appreciation were read from the President of the W.C.T.U. and others referring to the work and worth of our beloved White Ribbon sister, followed by the organist playing the "Dead March."

E.T.

Mr William Jennings Bryan, in the December number of his Commoner, tersely outlines this steady progress of the dry movement in these words:

"The Congress elected last month is the fifth successive dry Congress. The first dry Congress made the District of Columbia dry; the second submitted National Prohibition; the third passed the Volstead Law; the fourth, the present Congress, passed the Anti-beer Bill; the Congress just elected will be nearly, if not, two-thirds dry in both Houses. The dry vote has been increased in the Senate.

"There is not the slightest chance of the passage of any measure weakening

the present law. With thirty-three dry States, represented in the Senate by sixty-six Senators, not to speak of the dry portions of the States that have not adopted Prohibition, what chance is there of any wet Bill passing the Senate? Even the House, which is elected according to population, is not likely to favour any backward steps. In a few States in which the wet cities overbalance agricultural districts, they may continue to clamour for a change in the law, but their voice will be drowned in the mighty chorus that proclaims Prohibition as the permanent policy of the Government.

"In Ohio, the fourth State in the Union, and a State containing many large cities, wine and beer were defeated by 187,000. In California the Wright Amendment, providing for the enforcement of the Volstead Law, received 29,000 majority."

HAMILTON CELEBRATES ITS 25th BIRTHDAY.

In February we held a unique meeting to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Union in Hamilton. Of the old members who were present at its inception, three are living in Hamilton, viz., Mesdames Jones (President), Tidd, and Merrington. The former has held office continuously as President and Secretary. Touching tribute was paid to the memory of the late Mrs Dillicar, senr.

His Worship the Mayor, in his usual happy manner, spoke in glowing terms of the enthusiastic work done by the W.C.T.U.

Rev. Mr Waterhouse outlined work for coming year, and in congratulatory terms handed the President a birthday donation from the League.

The members were deeply touched with this kindly recognition of their services.

We hope for greater devotion and work in the service of this great cause, which we trust to see through.

Miss Ibbotson rendered a solo very pleasantly.

A dainty afternoon tea was handed round by the ladies.

Prosperity shines on different persons much in the same way that the sun shines on different objects. Some it hardens like mud; others it softens like