



FOR GOD, AND HOME, AND HUMANITY.

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### WHITE RIBBON DAY.

In 1884, Mary Clement Leavitt came to our shores, bringing with her, from beyond the seas, the early glow and warmth, the enthusiasm and the spiritual uplift of their wonderful Crusade movement. Here she found kindred spirits, and, in these far-off lonely isles of the Pacific, founded branches of the world's great organisation of women for the protection of their homes, for the uplifting of humanity, and for the realisation of God's Kingdom upon earth. They knew the Licensed Liquor Trade as the deadliest enemy of the home; that in homes where the income is small, it is usually the child who pays the Drink Bill. They knew it as an economic waste, that it never yet paid any country to have one citizen in goal because another citizen sold him whisky. They knew that alcohol is a racial poison, that it poisons the germs of life and sends the child into this world marred and broken, a victim to the evil appetite of its parents. They knew that alcohol weakens a man's resisting power and prepares the ground for tuberculosis and other diseases; that it lessens his efficiency; that it fills our prisons with persons who never would have become criminals, had not their senses been clouded and their passions aroused by strong drink; that

it spreads red ruin upon our streets, because alcohol, as a beverage, is a menace to public safety

Then, too, women have sense enough to know, that if the 80 tons' of sovereigns, now spent on strong drink and filling the pockets of profiteers were spent upon food, clothes or luxuries, it would go largely into the pockets of the workers, doing away with much of our ever-recurring unemployment trouble.

But the difficulty was to make these facts known, for the public press would not do so. Because some people like strong drink, and others make money by its sale, there is a conspiracy of silence. In 1894 the W.C.T.U. started its own official organ, the "White Ribbon," to help train its officers and members in the special work of the Union, and to educate public opinion upon the evils of strong drink, to teach them that alcohol is unnecessary as a medicine and harmful as a beverage. It was a brave venture, and during its early days of struggle, only the stark courage, the triumphant faith, and the magnificent devotion of that little band of women, enabled them to carry on.

By 1913 its financial outlook was brighter, and it came under its present management free of debt, and with a subscription list of over 1,800. This has now grown to 4,750. A

Y.P. Supplement has been added for the help of our L.T.L's. and Bands of Hope, and with this issue begins a four-page Supplement for our "Y." branches. From its foundation it has been wholly edited and managed by women of the W.C.T.U. But the founders were women of vision. They also instituted a White Ribbon Day. Once a year on or near June 15th, every branch is asked to arrange a special meeting, at which they study the privilege of having an official organ and their responsibility in connection therewith.

We believe firmly, that if the womanhood of New Zealand could visualise this land swept free from the Drink curse, they would rise in their strength and wipe it out of existence.

Many reasons have been given for our failure to win prohibition last year. But the fundamental reason was that prohibition was not a live issue at last Poll. Why was it not? Because temperance workers had failed to talk prohibition, think prohibition, pray for prohibition, publish prohibition's victories.

We have time to remedy that before next Poll. Every time you ask a woman to join the W.C.T.U. or to subscribe to its official organ, you are planting a seed. Nature is prodigal of her seeds, many never come to fruition. Sow seeds plentifully,