

## THE CRY FROM ABYSSINIA.

The Empress pleads: appeals to all the world:

Across the waters comes her anguished voice.

Hearts ache in sympathy, and nerves vibrate

With horror at the crime that wrecks such woe.

What is her plaint? 'Tis every woman's cause—

Justice and home, and that her people dwell

Safe from marauding hosts and shattering bombs,

The rain of poison-gas and liquid fire.

Rabbits and hares have holes, the forest beasts

Have their own lairs; the feathered tribes their nests;

But her poor harassed people find no rest,

Bereft of homes, their land made desolate.

We bow our heads at her majestic grief,  
And pray that God will send His rain and storm

To bar the oppressor's path and send him back,

Women in Rome are not of harder heart.

Did they but know the truth, and could they speak,

Assuredly would clamour, "Stay thy hand

And bring our own sons back to us again."

Equally traitorous to humanity  
Are those who make, supply of oil and fuel

Through fear or policy or greed of gain.  
Ye! in whom heart of flesh has turned to stone,

Know that 'twill sink you to abyssmal depths

You dealt despair, it turns to you again,  
Shame and dishonour cling about your name.

Merchants in every land! Keep back the oil,

Put it, as God's good gift, to proper use;  
Succour this people at the point of death,

Stricken by robbers who beset their way.  
—Eva P. Cato.

## DISTRICT EXECUTIVES.

### AUCKLAND.

May 4. Sympathy to Mrs. Kasper on the death of her sister. Miss Andrews, of Mt. Albert Union, received a warm welcome. £10 was donated to Dominion Headquarters Debt Reduction Fund. Arrangements made for: (1) Peace meeting (District), 18th May; (2) District Prayer Meeting, Tuesday evening, 26th inst.; (3) Street Collecting, Friday, 29th May. A strong protest was carried against Maori girls being allowed to work in Chinese gardens.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

April 15. Representatives from 18 branches. Mrs. Mitchell congratulated upon her appointment as Dominion Cor. Sec. Arrangements for Peace meeting in May. Resolutions passed:—

(1) "That in the opinion of this District Executive of the W.C.T.U., the control of mental hospitals should be vested in public boards, as in the case of Public Hospitals in the Dominion."

(2) "That the Minister in control of mental hospitals be asked in what way women's organisations can help to alleviate the lot of women patients in mental hospitals, especially those without friends."

Mrs Mitchell gave an interesting report of the Dominion Convention.

### TARANAKI.

Hawera, April 28. Letter read from Mrs. T. E. Taylor on "Peace." Each Union was asked to especially recognise Peace Day, and also to do all possible to get signatures to People's Mandate to Governments.

Miss Drew reported that Seamen's Rest had received £20 from a will, and now have balance of £50.

Mrs Hayward elected District Supt. for Legal and Parliamentary and Peace.

Unions asked to have effort for Headquarters.

### WELLINGTON.

April 29. Met at Petone. Mrs. Lopedell presided over morning session, and Miss C. E. Kirk, J.P., in the afternoon. Owing to Miss Jones being unable to "carry on," Mrs Webb was appointed District President. Delegates to the N.C.W. were appointed: Mesdames Tanner, McBride, Brewer, Mowlem, Aldersley and Peryman and Miss C. E. Kirk.

The Peace Day meeting and Day of Prayer were commended to all Unions.

White Ribbon Day Campaign was explained, and heartily endorsed by the meeting. A very fine discussion on Plans of Work.

## METHODS DEPARTMENT.

Dear W.R. Sisters,—

At the Dominion Convention it was resolved to change the name of the School of Methods to "Methods Department," and I was again appointed Superintendent.

We are still very anxious for the District Unions to hold "schools," but now individual Unions can work this department by holding study groups and classes to improve the procedure and methods of the meetings. Then, when the Unions receive a questionnaire, they can report direct to me.

It is so important, sisters, that we should make our meetings attractive. Here, in New Zealand, where the W.C.T.U. has been in existence over 50 years, and it was the first organised women's society, we took up the question

of other social evils as well as intemperance, and we have always been in the vanguard in any movement which had for its objective the betterment of conditions for women and children. As the years have gone on, more and more women's societies have been formed, with varying objectives, some entirely philanthropic in aim, others more limited in their scope, but one and all having a desire for the betterment of the conditions that affect women and children. The result of this has been that some of our members have left our ranks and have joined up with these newer bodies; some are deluded into the false belief that there is not such a great need for our work now. Hence has arisen the idea that the W.C.T.U. is out-of-date, and lacking in its appeal. We know this idea is abroad, because we are met with it. We as members must prove that the need for a vigorous campaign, and our work is still as great as ever, the enemy has lost no whit of his potency, and there is need for increasing vigilance and untiring effort. If the W.C.T.U., under its present guise, fails in its attractiveness, if we find that our methods are not as successful as those of some other women's societies, then we should consider the possibility of altering our methods, providing it does not clash with any of our principles. We could still hold to our triad of education, agitation, and legislation, and suit our methods to the needs of a new age; but we must never lower our standard. Sisters, we have succeeded during the 50 years we have been in existence in maintaining our Unions without stooping to any questionable methods, but I feel we could introduce new methods to bring our meetings up-to-date and make them more attractive. Try it.

With best wishes and an earnest appeal to the Unions throughout the Dominion to take up the work of this department,

I remain, yours in W.R. bonds,

AMY KASPER.

## MODEL ADULT MEETING.

### Agenda.

Hymn.  
Devotions, led by Evangelistic Supt.  
Welcome to members and visitors.  
Pledge.  
Roll call.  
Apologies.  
Temperance Fact.  
Minutes.  
Financial Statement.  
Report of Cor. Secretary.  
Report of Cradle Roll (L.W.R.), presented by Supt.  
Enrolment of a new L.W.R.  
Report of Loyal Temperance Legion, presented by Supt.  
Reports from Departmental Superintendents (if any).  
Unfinished Business.  
New Business.  
Appeal for new members.  
Programme.  
Address.  
Solo, etc.  
Closing.