

TEMPERANCE.

(An Address given by Mr Miller, headmaster of the N.E. Valley Public School, at a meeting of the N.E. Valley W.C.T.U.)

It is no easy matter to select a subject that will contain anything that such a gathering may not know concerning the importance of Temperance. For that reason I have not taken as my topic such phrases as the economic waste, the physical ruin through alcohol, the social and moral deterioration due to strong drink. Rather have I selected for my few remarks the vague (perhaps), but nevertheless significant title, "Sowing and Harvest," with the hope that anything that might be said will give each of you a new determination to toil on, to pray on for the sowing you know is the only just one; and for the harvest you will now be assured if once that opportunity comes for the sowing.

As the Scottish poet once put it:

"Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will for a' that;
That man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that."

This is still the curse that is on the peoples of the world—this lack of brotherhood; this soul-warping selfishness, this animalistic greed, that causes men to fail to realise that mankind is meant to be a brotherhood, that in what one man does for himself, for his own satisfying, may, in fact, does become far-reaching in its effect upon others, others who are so often young, helpless, or unable to withstand the severe effect.

I know that often you may feel inclined to despair, in that your movement appears to be making very slow headway, that it is not co-opting those whom you feel are the very ones who should be in this work with every ounce of their energy and with every moment of their time. Have you ever thought that all the great things in the world have come from the mind and energy of individuals or tiny groups? Think of the world-wide influence that has been wrought by one lowly Nazarene and His tiny band of twelve. Do you recall that one man, Wilberforce, managed to wipe out from the British Empire the curse of slavery? Was it not one man, Lord Shaftesbury, who transformed the lives of the young folks of Britain? Did not one lonely doctor found the world-wide orphanages, a system we know to-day? Was it not a small but devout band who colonised North America? Does not our own Otago boast that it was founded by a sterling band of those who would leave the oppression and find a home where they and their children might develop their manhood?

So, friends, it will be with this movement to which you have turned your energy and thought, as it will be with all other great movements, such as the Bible in schools, the stopping of the desecration of the Sabbath, etc. Perhaps you have often asked yourself, why it is that such an important, such a far-

reaching, such a necessary state as "Temperance" is should be so slow in gripping the mind of the masses.

We admit that never before in our race was education so advanced. The percentage of illiterates, for example, is infinitesimal to-day. Never before did the children of the race have such opportunities for education, such wealth of knowledge, within their reach, and yet, with all this, we seem further off from our sowing than we did twenty, thirty, forty years ago. Have you thought that, with all the education that is manifest to-day, we are still suffering the dread effects of the greatest, the most frightful war, the world has known? Why is it, you ask. I believe it is because we have produced an unbalanced race, a race whose mental side has far outstripped its moral side, and its spiritual side. With the mad rush for new ideas, greater education, we neglected to maintain the balance, the balance that would have given us a more Christ-like manhood, one whose brotherhood would have been very apparent, with all that brotherhood means. Wherein lies the remedy? Some believe that we must restrict our education. We must put our clocks back a few decades. But surely such cannot be right. If education is the birthright of our children, rather must we strive not only to maintain what we are giving, but rather increase it, provided that we give the same attention to the moral and spiritual welfare of these young mortals. We cannot look to our churches to do all this moral and spiritual upbuilding. The church is doing wonderful work, when one considers that it has the children for one hour out of 168 hours. The State has realised its responsibility concerning the mental and physical development of our young. The State must also recognise its responsibility concerning the moral and spiritual development of them. One knows that you have been earnest in your endeavours to cause the State to do so. In this I believe is one of your greatest tasks to-day, because once you obtain it, then, I believe, the first generation's product will bring the other goal which is very dear to your hearts.

I do not wish to appear pessimistic concerning the wiping out of the liquor traffic in the very near future, but I am convinced that you yourselves must have had food for thought at the result of the last two polls. Never slacken in your methods of disseminating the necessary education concerning the dread evils of the traffic, but just as earnestly strive to bring about the sowing of the good seed by the State until you find the whole land "white unto harvest," and rest assured you shall not labour in vain in the reaping. The crops will be similar to that in the great parable of the wheat and the tares. The wheat will be the great brotherhood; the tares will be all the evil attendant upon this arch monster, the drink traffic.

So I would close by saying, cleave to your high ideals, your great necessity, and if you are to obtain it by an indirect yet lofty means, rather than by the direct way you have so long cher-

ished, put the same fine energy into the new way, and pray for the harvest.

Summing up, then, I am asking you to stress the "C" of your well-known initials rather than the "T" of it. You see, after all, it is but part of your platform, what is, I believe, the greater part, the part nevertheless which not a few of us are apt to forget in our undertakings.

OBITUARY.

The Ponsonby Union and Auckland District have sustained a great loss in the home-going of Mrs Farrand, who passed in to see the King on February 22nd, in her 82nd year. The District President, Mrs Kasper, read the beautiful W.C.T.U. service at the graveside. Our dear sister was a true White Ribboner, one of the faithful ones, although a sufferer for many years, and walking with the help of a stick, and being helped on and off the tram by the conductor, her place was never vacant at the meeting. She held the position of Cor. Sec. and Supt. of Sabbath Observance and Anti-Gambling; she was also District Supt. for the above for some time. She was fearless and courageous in denouncing either the breaking of the Sabbath or gambling in any shape or form. She wrote many letters to the Premier and Members of Parliament, to the City Council, daily newspapers, and even the Prince of Wales, protesting against anything she thought was wrong, and quoting Scripture to them, and pointing them to the Saviour, invariably receiving a courteous answer back, even from the Prince of Wales' secretary. She never forgot to write to sick members and visit them, when possible. She was indeed one of our great-hearted Temperance workers, and her place will be very difficult to fill.

MRS CHRISTINA HAWORTH.

Lawrence Union has sustained a great loss by the death of one of its Vice-Presidents, Mrs Haworth, who joined the W.C.T.U. during the war in Dunedin, and has been a member of this Branch from its beginning. She was a most enthusiastic member, one of the props of our Branch, and always attended to the floral decorations of our meetings. She was also Librarian at the time of her death. Above all, she was a devout Christian woman, staunch to her church, and in spite of failing health, attended with unfailing regularity the House of God on the Sabbath Day. She was a lover of children, and took a keen interest in the work of the Sunday School. Although not a teacher, any good work had her sympathy and support. She took a great interest in the work of this Union, and her readiness to further the work of Prohibition has been an inspiration to all members. She leaves a son and daughter. One son, Dr. Haworth, a promising young man, was killed at the war.