

President's Message



My dear Comrades,

What a wonderful thing is an "adverse circumstance!" Something has happened before which, for a moment our hearts have quailed; we have become vexed or even angry. When the Report of the Royal Commission on Licensing was published we found that, in spite of all the evidence given by Temperance advocates, and the facts produced which showed the need for drastic reform and curtailment of the activities of the traffic, greater facilities and privileges were accorded it. However, the vexation and righteous anger are past and we accept the challenge of the verdict. There is a new spirit in our workers. With renewed Faith we turn again to the words of our Crusade Psalm, "Put not your trust in princes (Commissions and legislators), nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help." This has brought to us the rebound of Faith.

"The way of the wicked HE turneth upside down."

In the words of Frances Willard, "This is the climax, the keystone of the arch of our beautiful and holy endeavour. It means prohibition by law, prohibition by politics, prohibition by woman's ballot. The figure in the passage is complete, for 'the way of the wicked' is to be 'turned upside down,' then the traffic is to be completely overthrown and nothing less will ever satisfy the world's White Ribbon host. 'The Old Guard never surrenders,' for while we have no harsh criticism for good people who adopt less drastic methods of reform, the White Ribbon women will say at last as they felt called to say at first of Prohibition: 'Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me, Amen.' And we do this because we believe that **what is physically wrong can**

"Devotional Period"

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath
The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death;
He enters Heaven by prayer."

There cannot be the faintest doubt that prayer is the heart and centre of all religion. Religion and prayer are not identical, but are related to each other as life and breathing, as thought and speech. Just as there can be no true religion without the idea of God and the Eternal, so there can be no genuine religious life without the life of prayer.

Our Lord built His earthly life on this foundation.

Read Mark, Ch. I, verses 29 to 35.

After a very heavy day, and an evening filled with wonderful manifestations of His Divine power and love, "He rose up a great while before day." In that hour of breathless silence and wonder which so often pre-

never be morally right, what is morally wrong can never be legally right, what is legally wrong can never be politically right."

It does us good to go back again and again to our Crusade Psalm; sing it through. It has but 10 verses, and yet it gives us the key-note, the rallying cry, the prophetic exhortation and plan of work, and the song of victory in our holy war.

This week I am sent back to one of our stirring hymns:

"Ho, my comrades! see the signal
Waving in the sky!
Reinforcements now appearing,
Victory is nigh!"

Letters have reached me telling about new Bands of Hope being formed and of the good progress of recently formed ones. An ex-"Y" member, through the inspiration of Timaru Convention, has started a Band in the suburb where she lives. Although the mother of four or five children she takes time to prepare excellent programmes, train little officers, and is thrilled to do it. Another ex-"Y" and essay gold medallist writes that she is now a District Secretary. Three ex-"Y's" hold positions of District President. Three are Dominion Superintendents. One is Superintendent of a Maori "Y" Branch, others are helping with Bands of Hope and Union work.

An enthusiastic letter from a Maori girl, secretary of a "Y" Club in a Maori Girls' College, tells of keen and sustained interest in the study of Scientific Temperance at their fortnightly meetings; discussions and debates; speeches and other items of interest.

Pray. Plan. Work.

Yours for Service,

CATHERINE M. McLAY.

cedes the dawn, when the stars, strangely placed now, in the sky, and looking unfamiliar, still shine gently, awaiting the breaking of day which will quench their light; when all nature seems to wait for something. He found a time of quiet. He needed it. Is there a single worker for God who does not need it? The fact that even into the sacred solitude which meant so much to Him in the restoration of His powers, Simon and they that were with him followed Him, shows how difficult it was to have that time alone with His Father. But He found time somehow, knowing His own need.

Lord, what a change within us one short hour

Spent in Thy presence will avail to make!

What heavy burdens from our bosoms take!

What parched grounds refresh as with a shower!

We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;

We rise, and all, the distant and the near,

Stands forth in sunny outline, brave and clear:

We kneel, how weak! we rise, how full of power!

Why therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,

Or others—that we are not always strong—

That we are sometimes overborne with care—

That we should ever weak or heartless be,

Anxious or troubled—when with us is prayer,

And joy and strength and courage are with Thee?

—R. C. Trench.

Let us pray for faith to believe that if we cast all our care upon God, Who careth for us, the burden will be lifted in very truth; for strength to make time for the communion with Him that is the essence of prayer; realising that it is not only for ourselves, but for our families and friends, and others who may need help from us, that we have need of the renewing of our spiritual and physical powers.

"Within the Veil"

MRS. E. E. HUNTER
Linwood Union

Another of our Linwood stalwarts has been called to Higher Service after a brief illness. Mrs. E. E. Hunter has been a member of our Branch for 19 years, and will be greatly missed from among us. But we know she has received her "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord."