

# The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

## Thought for the Month.

All victories are won within the soul before they become actual conquests in the world of fact.—Rufus M. Jones.

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## N.Z. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

We come to this Convention, 1943, with reverent tread, remembering our members who have lost their loved sons during the two years since last we met. We remember also our two fine leaders, Mrs. Don and Mrs. T. E. Taylor, and many members and friends who have joined the countless host of redeemed souls. They sacrificed themselves to their utmost capacity to do service whilst here, to-day they have greater capacity to serve in the land of endless day. Why have we been left behind? The Lord had need of them and took them to Himself, He has need of us here. May we have a vision of what we can do for Him in building a better New Zealand for our soldiers who have done so much for us, for our girls and boys, for the little children, for the unborn. There is a mighty work of construction ahead of us. Before we can build on broad and secure foundations we must hurl back four mighty destructive forces, war, drink, impurity, gambling.

When Ezekiel saw that strange vision by the river Chebar he and thousands of his people were in captivity and all hope of God's power to deliver had fled, for the news came that the Holy City of Jerusalem and the glorious temple had been destroyed; now there was no place to worship. Everything on which they leaned was gone, and God must have gone too with the crash of all their religious props. God had not gone. He spoke to the despairing prophet through a vision, a vision which seemed to denote all the changing circumstances in the lives of God's people. Ezekiel saw in that vision, living creatures with wings, and wheels within wheels, sometimes moving rapidly, sometimes standing still. The vision seemed so confusing, but above the confusion of changing scenes, a firmament, and above, the firmament, God. God was there. His Glory was so brilliant that Ezekiel fell upon his face to the ground. What was God's message to the prophet?

"Son of man, stand upon thy feet and I will speak to thee."

"This is no time to give way to despair, although there is confusion all around, although all the props of religion have fallen, stand up: Face difficulties, I am beside you, I want you to work for me here, now, when everything seems lost. Is anything too hard for the Lord? Stand upon thy feet. Be not afraid, open thy mouth, I will give thee words to speak. You are my chosen messenger." Ezekiel



MRS. HIETT,  
Dominion President.

arose, he obeyed the voice of the Lord, and as he obeyed he heard a voice behind him saying: "Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place." He heard that voice, he also heard the noise of wheels, the confusing sound of rushing wings, but above it all the voice of the Lord guiding and controlling, and the hand of the Lord was strong upon him.

Have we come to a like place in the history of the world? Change, confusion, strife, nothing stable. Do the changing circumstances of life to-day confuse us until we wonder if God has forgotten, if He has left the world to drift to doom through wars, cruelty, oppression, drink and lust for power, regardless of human suffering? God is

here, He is speaking to us: "Stand upon your feet, I am with you, be unafraid. Above the noise, the rushing, the conflict, hear the voice of the Lord. "Ye are my witnesses. Go forth to save my people. Speak, hold not your peace. I have made you my watchmen. I have chosen you to do special work for me."

God grant that we, members of the W.C.T.U., will listen to His voice and see a vision of His glory and power as we commence a new year's work. He is saying to us at this Convention: "Stand upon your feet and go forward. There never was a greater opportunity to do my work than at this time."

**War.** War continues to curse the world. How can we help to hurl back this destructive force? Above the firmament—God. Above this weary war-torn world there is still the angels' message of hope and love and peace. God's love will win through. Hatred, greed and godlessness are the root causes of war. We can help to hurl back the forces of hatred, greed and godlessness by putting love into all our efforts. Love is the organising and cohesive principle of human life. It is love that keeps families united and it is love, the love of God and the love for our fellow creatures, that alone will unite nations. Christ is the only hope for the world. Hitler has demonstrated so forcibly the destructive power of hatred. It is given to the women of the world to demonstrate the love of God through Christ, to prove that a just and durable peace may be obtained by obeying Christ's command "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart and soul and mind, and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

In the annual address of the United States President, she said:

"There must be a standard of living which will give health and happiness for all, regardless of nation, race or class. Nothing less could be a Kingdom of God. Women should sit at the peace table as well as men. They, too, are world citizens, but let us be sure, first of all, that Christ sits at that table." There is no other way to