

Dear "White Ribbon" Sisters,

You will rejoice to learn that Miss Kirk is now on the road to recovery, though it may be a slow one to travel. She sends you all her love and especial thanks to Convention members, who so helped with loving prayers, letters and messages.

In some three weeks from now, we look forward to having her at home in Wellington, once more.

Yours very sincerely,

JANET ATKINSON.

Invercargill, March 22, 1955.

NOTE: The above letter was received too late for publication in the "White Ribbon" in April, and this was unfortunate, for all our members will be anxious to receive news of Miss Kirk, whom we left in Hospital at the close of Convention. Our prayers and loving wishes will continue to surround Miss Kirk as she makes her recovery to health and strength once more.—Editor.

A MESSAGE TO MODERN MOTHERHOOD

No matter how old we grow to be, or how distant our wanderings, the influence of mother still reaches us from afar.

Mothers (and fathers too), we are to remember that we will live again in the future of our children.

There is an old saying: "You have no right to ask anyone to be better than you are yourself. 'What a mockery, what a foolish thing, for so-called Christian parents to be teaching, advising, exhorting, young people and others to live up to a certain standard, when the one who preaches falls below that standard. If we put the challenge to ourselves as parents, we must paraphrase it and say, 'You hardly need to expect your children to be better than yourself.'"

A certain mother who was troubled by her misbehaving son, asked her minister, "Isn't there something you can do about our Johnnie?" The minister replied: 'My dear friend, fifty hours at home pulling one way or all ways, and one hour at Sunday School; are not the odds somewhat unequal?'

We make the list one hour a week at Sunday School, forty hours a week at day school, fifty or sixty hours at home. And add holiday time! It is easy to see how the influence, which the home environment may exert, is easily superior to all the rest.

"A house is built of bricks and stone,
Of sills and posts and piers;
But a HOME is built of loving deeds
That stand a thousand years. . . .
The men of earth build houses,
Halls and chambers, roofs and domes—
But the women of earth, God knows,
The women build the homes!"

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THE POWER OF YOUR LETTER

Public opinion is a mighty force. It has to be considered by statesmen and politicians, newspapers and municipalities, by radio and television, by the railroads and bus lines, and by many other corporations.

Once in a while someone feels deeply or expresses himself privately about the conduct of some public man or the acts of a corporation. Then he may say, "But I guess that it doesn't make any difference what I think." **That is where he is wrong.** It makes much difference what any person in a free nation thinks **if he expresses himself** at the right time, in the right way, to the right people.

A senator spoke of the "outside pressures" which had influenced his vote on a certain measure. This press is legitimate, for these men are the servants of the people. One Congressman complained that when a bill which involved a moral issue was before Congress he might get twenty letters urging a vote for what is right and 500 from selfish interests and their friends who seek profit for themselves at the cost of the people. This is only saying that as Jesus said, "the children of this world are wiser than the children of light."

A magazine refuses liquor advertising, a bus company forbids drinking by its drivers and conductors, a newspaper editor writes a useful editorial, the director of education or the principal of the teacher does a good thing, the politician makes a good speech or supports a good bill. Or any one of these may do or say exactly the wrong thing. If applications and blame are applied or expressed, the influence upon legislation and important decisions are great.

When an act of the legislator brings ten letters of protest, this is noted by him. If one hundred write their disapproval, he is impressed. If one thousand write him about the matter, he may feel that the very world is tumbling in on him, however large his majority at the last election.

What to do, then? **If you cannot be the editor of a great newspaper, or the head of a corporation, or the holder of important office, you can still do much to determine what these of vast influence will do if you write.**

This will take a little trouble, it will cost something for postage. But this is good citizenship. It is a piece of usefulness, of Christian service.

Why not write each week at least one letter? You might be surprised at some of the nice replies from some of the very human people who occupy conspicuous places.

If your letter of protest or approval is only counted and is one of a hundred or one of a thousand, it still counts. **Let us quit worrying about what we cannot do, but do what we can.**—from "Grit".