

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

President:

Mrs A. T. RICHARDS, J.P.,
18 Marama Terrace,
Birkenhead, Auckland.

Vice-President:

Mrs L. K. V. GRIGG, M.A., J.P.
61 Friend Street, Karori, Wellington.

Treasurer

Mrs J. H. GRIGG, 1 Mallam St.,
Karori, Wellington.

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"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

DOMINION HEADQUARTERS

134 Ghuznee Street, Wellington, C.2.
Telephone No.: 50-257.

Recording Secretary:

Mrs E. M. ATKINS,
20 Aubrey Street, New Plymouth.

Corresponding Secretary:

Mrs A. G. RANKIN
64 Washington Valley Rd., Nelson.

Legal and Parliamentary Dept.

Director:
Mrs L. K. V. GRIGG, M.A., J.P.

Official Organ :

The White Ribbon

Editor:

Mrs C. E. SINGLETON
Private Bag, Wellsford.
North Auckland.

Business Manager of the White Ribbon:

Mrs H. V. MELVIN,
39a James Street,
Whakatane.

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DOMINION PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dearly Beloved of God,

As I sit and bathe in the sunshine of God's love I am reminded afresh of what a privileged people we are. The sun shines upon the just and the unjust alike, "Behold I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me?" Jeremiah 32:27. The fields are ready unto harvest, 44,000 alcoholics in dire need of Christ. Have you faced up to your responsibility as an ambassador? If not, do not delay.

Statistics seem to reveal an increase of drinkers, and for this there seem to be two reasons. The first is in advertising which has served to condition people to become more tolerant towards alcoholic beverages. Unfortunately there has been little to counteract such advertising. This same advertising has done more than anything else, perhaps, to make for social acceptance of liquor. Once the drinker and drunkard were frowned upon. They were not wanted at the party nor entrusted with office in the church, but sisters, this picture has changed, and drinking is fast becoming the accepted thing.

To cry out against drinking today is to be regarded as a fanatic. Even the preacher who dares to speak out boldly is oft-times regarded as narrow-minded, and this, within many churches of our time. If Christian people would only be Christian in this respect and declare their convictions and voice their disapproval, the tides of social acceptance would soon begin to roll back.

The supreme power on the temperance battlefield of today is "prayer which will wage war on the rulers of darkness." Ps. 24:8. "Ask of Me and I will give thee the nations for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possessions."

I feel that the believing Christian should stand shoulder to shoulder in this fight and pray through that God will move the hearts of the people. Oh, how we need an individual revival of heart and my earnest prayer is, "Lord, send a revival, and let it begin in me."

Sisters, let us expect great things from God and attempt great things for God. Drink in these words of life, "I am the Lord. I change not." Malachi 13:6. Are we not sometimes in danger of forgetting that persecution is part of the price to be paid by those who would do the will of God? And it must be without fear of men whose breath is, after all, only in his nostrils.

The prophet of long ago, set forth a fine truth when he exhorted God's people to lengthen their cords and strengthen their stakes, for a great door and effectual is opened unto you and there are many adversaries. The early Church fasted and prayed for hours and days, with the result that thousands were saved and in turn witnessed "with great power" to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, until it was said, "These men have turned the world upside down." Sisters, will we pay the price in order, "that He may see the travail of His soul and be satisfied." Say ye not, "there is no need". Ask God to anoint our eyes to see the great need and our ears to hear the crying of the sheep and the bleating of the lambs for whom the Good Shepherd gave His life. Christ is the answer to all our social problems. In some small measure it is my heart's desire to inspire confidence in your hearts to the risen Lord, who is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all we can ever ask or think. If I have been able to do anything, it has generated from a heart of love and compassion, constrained first by the love of Christ shed abroad by the Holy Spirit, for suffering humanity.

I would recommend each Union to select and promote the following groups: **Loyal Temperance Legion, School of Methods**, and, since membership is the essential framework for effective action, **will you enlist new members and new subscribers for our valuable WHITE RIBBON?** Please do not tell me you cannot enlist members. I addressed a Mission group (last night) and ten new members paid over their membership fees of 2/7 on the spot. Truly we W.C.T.U. women need the vision of our pioneer sisters restored.

Yours in the Master's Service,
Olive Richards.