

on the opium question, and a call upon the Government to regard as "its first duty" the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts in India. The convention also declared that right-minded people should carefully consider the condition of public morals revealed in the recent trial of a well-known wright; and expressed its condemnations of the "sex novel" and "the prevailing style of fashionable dress."—Mrs Ingells (Chicago) denounced the universal use of tobacco; another delegate deplored the habit of snuff-taking among girls of the Southern State, and a third made serious allegations against certain almshouses in America. It was announced that a "Somerset Fountain," similar to that erected by the children of the World's W.C.T.U. at Chicago, was shortly to be erected on the Victoria Embankment. Miss Willard having offered to apply the £600 testimonial presented to her to the use of the "Round the World Missionary Movement," strong objection was taken to such a self-denying disposal of the money, and a collection (realising £25) was taken towards providing otherwise for the international missionaries.

In the afternoon, at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress received the delegates, who heartily enjoyed this exhibition of civic hospitality. Lord Mayor Renals said that of all the functions he had had to discharge on behalf of the City of London none had given him greater pleasure than to greet our "kinswomen" from over sea who were engaged in the great work of uplifting humanity.

Elaborate preparations had been made at the Albert Hall for the "grand international demonstration." Over 12,000 tickets were distributed, and not an inch of space was wasted, but literally thousands of applications for admission had to be refused. Mr H. J. Osborn, with 100 voluntary stewards, conducted the delegates and visitors to their seats. The United White Ribbon Choir of 800 voices, under the direction of Mr A. L. Cowley (Music Director to the School Board for London), in their blue print frocks and white satin sashes looked very effective in the upper orchestra. A string band assisted; and Mr J. F. Proudman, F. C. O., presided at the organ. Round the hall and at the foot of the platform was displayed the great Polyglot Petition with its 7,000,000 signatures. The opening ceremonies included a long and imposing procession, led by the entrance of Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Frances E. Willard, Miss Agnes E. Weston, and Madame Antoinette Sterling, escorted by a body-guard of men of the Royal Navy. Following these through the arena came delegations (some in uniform and others wearing regalia) representing the United

Kingdom Band of Hope Union, United Kingdom Alliance, Methodist Temperance organisations, the Congregational Total Abstinence Association, the New Church Temperance Society, Friends Temperance Union, London Wesleyan Mission, National Temperance League, Anglo-Indian Temperance Association, St Mary's Training Home for Girls, London Temperance Hospital, Gospel Temperance Army, Sons of Temperance, Rechabites, Original Grand Phoenix Order, United Phoenix Order, Catholic Total Abstinence League and Independent Order of Good Templars. The General Post Office Temperance Society was represented by a delegation of men in uniform. Teetotal policemen, teetotal fireman, and teetotal soldiers also took part in the procession, their appearance being greeted with much cheering and waving of handkerchiefs. After them came representatives in costume bearing the flags of countries in which the W.C.T.U. is organised—namely, China, India, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Hawaii, Japan, Africa, Egypt, Madagascar, Madeira, Finland, Bulgaria, Greece, Bahamas, Newfoundland, Iceland, Norway, Holland, Denmark, Canada, South America, Mexico, Spain, France, Germany, America, and, of course, the United Kingdom. It is enough to say of the picturesque costumes worn by the young ladies representing these countries that they are, unfortunately, not now generally in use, if they ever were. While the groups, numbering in all nearly a thousand persons, passed to their seats, various national anthems were played, and the choir vociferously sang the World's Woman's hymn, "All round the world the ribbon white is twined," to the stirring and familiar strains of "Poor Old Joe." Prayer was said standing, the vast audience following the clear resonant voice of the Dean of Hereford in the universal *Pater Noster*.

Lady Henry Somerset, in her address of welcome to the delegates, said that theirs was a cause which knew no distinction of nationality, because it was the cause of God Himself. The first president of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, Mrs Margaret Bright Lucas—(cheers)—had put a cable of love and loyalty between our hearts and those of women in distant lands. Round them they saw the great petition, with its 7,000,000 signatures, which gave them heart of hope and courage to go forward. What they asked of the awakened woman was that she should be the enfranchised woman, and of the new woman that she should be the true woman. (Loud cheers) On this glad day they felt that they