

Poetry.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

I HEARD the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good will to men !
 And thought how as the day had come,
 The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along
 The unbroken song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men !

But in despair I bowed my head—
 "There is no peace on earth," I said ;
 " For hate is strong,
 And mocks the song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men."
 Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
 "God is not dead, nor does He sleep !
 The wrong shall fail,
 The right prevail,
 With peace on earth, good will to men ?"

—Longfellow.

Notes and Comments.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. E. McL. and S. I., Annat.—Thanks for contributions. Will appear in next issue.

Horatio St.—Shall be happy to insert in January issue.

Will correspondents please write on one side of the paper only.

Will those members of the last Convention who were confident they could guarantee a certain number of subscribers send names and subscriptions at as early a date as possible to the Business Manager. Some Unions have done excellently in this matter. In the case of others we have been reminded of the proverbial pie-crust promises.

Writing previous to the recent decision of the Wellington Licensing Committee to grant a removal of license, a correspondent wrote: "I notice that when a Licensing Committee adjourns such matters it always gives a wrong decision. But it means one more proof of the impossibility of regulation and the need of abolition."

When we remember that the newly-licensed premises are in the vicinity of a large public school, one cannot but wonder at the inhumanity of those who thus close their ears and hearts to the "cry of the children."

The fact that so many of the Wesleyan District Synods recently assembled in various parts of the colony have passed resolutions condemning the C. D. Acts and urging their repeal is a hopeful sign. Once the Churches of all denominations are roused the day is ours.

By the time our January issue see the light, we hope to record the fact that Mrs Sheppard is once more in our midst.

The new editor of the *Woman's Signal*, proposes to widen the scope of the paper, so that it may be "a journal for all women, dealing with all their interests, both in the home and in the world." Apparently purely domestic matters are to receive a much larger share of attention than heretofore.

In pursuance of the "Do-everything policy" the Invercargill W.C.T.U. has taken up a new department of work. Our correspondent writes:—"An Association for the help of friendless girls has lately been formed in Invercargill. The need of such an association was strongly felt, for during the last few months four friendless, and almost penniless, girls were sent to our Union. These have been provided with homes and befriended, until they can earn their own living. They have been given to understand that there are some to whom they can look for help, and who will assist them to lead honest and useful lives. Hence the need of a properly organised Association. We feel confident that all good women will be glad to assist us in this work, and trust that we may be able to do a great deal of good."

Gleanings

THE Japanese W.C.T.U., was organised in 1893. FAR hence be Bachus' gifts, unnerving limbs and dulling noble minds.—*Homer*.

THE Baltimore W.C.T.U. Convention was preceded by a National Purity Congress.

THERE are 143 women's colleges in the United States.

CO-EDUCATION and the wider companionship of men and women will, Miss Willard prophesies, play an important part in the progress of purity.

THE Liquor-Dealers' National Association at Washington have pledged themselves to resist all law-making power against the liquor traffic.

PHYSICAL culture and dress reform received a large share of attention at the late Baltimore convention.

ARCHBISHOP CROKE confirms no child in the diocese of Cashel who does not take a solemn total abstinence pledge.