

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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VISIT OF MR AND MRS PHILIP SNOWDEN.

The last month has been rendered memorable by the visit of two interesting personalities from the Home Land, Mr Philip Snowden, M.P. for Blackburn, and one of the leading Labour members, and his gifted wife, who has the reputation of being the best woman speaker in England. Their visit was necessarily short, and their series of lectures for the No-License League were compressed into the brief space of four days, but they were truly a feast of good things.

The visitors arrived by the first express from Auckland on Friday, the 16th October, and in the afternoon they were accorded a civic reception. The Council Chamber was crowded with ladies and gentlemen, including many members of the No-License League and other Temperance organisations. Short speeches of welcome were delivered by His Worship the Mayor and several City Councillors, present and past, and other representative citizens. Mr Snowden, in reply, spoke feelingly of the kindness shown to him and his wife by the people of New Zealand, so that from the first they had felt at home. He paid a high tribute to the British Parliament. Since his arrival he had more than once been referred to as "representative of the British Parliament," but he could assure his listeners that he would not dare to claim such a distinction. But he was proud of being a member of the most democratic assemblage in the world, where were many aristocrats, and still more rich men, but where all that went for nothing unless ac-



MRS ETHEL SNOWDEN.

companied with sterling character, a political purpose, and high ability. There was no snobbery, and the Labour members were always listened to with the greatest respect, because it was recognised that the information they could give was reliable, being gained at first hand. The House of Commons would not be lectured to, but it was always willing and anxious to gain information on great social questions.

Referring to the various humble positions he had held before entering Parliament, as on the Parish Council, School Board, Educational Committee, and so on, the speaker emphasised the importance of the municipal offices, both in themselves and as affording a training ground for higher positions. Their function, though not legislative, like that of Parliament, was equally important, seeing that most reforms have to be carried out by the people themselves. In closing, he said that he had been greatly touched by hearing hundreds and thousands of New Zealanders talking of England as "Home," though perhaps they had never been outside these islands. "While this spirit lasts, the Empire will be able to stand four square against what ever winds may blow."

Mrs Snowden said it was hardly necessary for her to say anything, for her heart and her husband's beat in unison, so that all that he had said she said too. There had been no thought of war when they left Britain, or doubtless they would not have come, but having come, they were resolved to do what they had come for. As to the war, the chief thing was not to worry, but keep calm, prepared for any emergency and any service required. She too appreciated the kindness of the New Zealanders, and if ever her roots could be pulled up and she could settle in another land than "Home," New Zealand would be the country where she could feel most at home.

The first of the series of Prohibition addresses, given under the auspices of the No-License League, were delivered on Friday evening in the