

to support, she yet found time to help others and to do the Master's work outside, as well as inside her own home. Her loving sympathy knew neither race, colour, nor creed, and Maori or Jew, friend or stranger, wherever there was the need of help, this "Mother in Israel" went to carry comfort and help in the name of her Master. Her heroic soul has passed "through Death triumphant home," and she hears the Master's "Well done. Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these, My children, ye did it to Me."

#### MRS HUGHES.

We are sorry to record the death of one of the honoured and faithful officers and members of the Auckland W.C.T.U. Mrs Hughes passed away at her resident, Mount Eden, on Friday, November 6th. Our sister was for many years the Treasurer of our Union. Her zeal and devotion to Temperance and all works of reform were untiring, and though, through failing health, she has been unable to attend our meetings for some time, yet her interest in the work of the Union never lessened till her death. Mrs Hughes was for many years Superintendent of Literature in connection with the N.Z. Union, and of late years Superintendent of Maori Work, taking a deep interest in the Maoris. Her face was a familiar one at Convention, which she rarely missed attending.

She was a devoted mother, and has left a living monument to her memory in the members of her family. Her daughter, Mrs Anderson Hughes Drew, is a World's Missionary for the W.C.T.U.; two of her sons are in the Baptist ministry; other members are earnest Christian and Temperance workers.

A largely attended funeral service was held at the Mount Eden Baptist Church, of which Mrs Hughes was a member. Our sister was laid at rest in the beautiful Purewa Cemetery on Sunday afternoon, November 8th.

A number of our members attended the funeral of our late White Ribboner.

We pray that, through the influence of her devoted, earnest life, others may be called to fill the breach in the ranks.

"So He giveth His beloved sleep."

#### MASS MEETING FOR WOMEN.

ADDRESSED BY MRS SNOWDEN.

A woman's meeting was held in the Town Hall on the afternoon of Monday, October 19th, and was attended by about 2000. Lady Stout occupied the chair, and on the platform were also Mrs J. P. Luke, the Mayoress, Mrs A. R. Atkinson, and many other members of the various Women's Societies. Mr Bernard Page, the city organist, presided at the organ, and played the Marseillaise, the National Anthem, and Handel's "Harmonious Blacksmith."

Mrs Snowden, remarking that when a stranger comes claiming to be heard, it was only fair she should give her credentials, explained what first led her to take part in the Temperance movement. When studying in Liverpool for the teaching profession, she came under the influence of a prominent clergyman, who not merely taught the truths of Christianity, but also urged their practical application to life. On one occasion he gave an address before 3000 people on "Can a man be a Christian on £1 a week?" a question which he answered in the affirmative, but showed that it was not easy, and declared that those who were comfortably off ought not to rest so long as there were hundreds of thousands who had not even as much as £1, in many cases not more than 12s a week. Preaching of this kind fired many with the desire for social service, and Mrs Snowden began work in the slums of Liverpool, having for scholars little children with the faces of criminals, and with scarcely a decent stitch of clothing. Here she found women untidy, dirty, almost naked, criminal-looking, men in similar misery and degradation, houses with 5, 6, 10, 13 people living in one room; and naturally she wished to know why such things were so. She asked wise men and good women the cause of this criminality and degradation. Varied were the answers she received. Some said drunkenness was the cause, others laziness, others weakmindedness, but when she went into the question for herself, she found that some were there amid those wretched conditions who had never touched liquor; others who would have been glad to work if only they could have obtained it; and the weak-minded were born so as the re-

sult of crime. The solution of the problem was therefore not so easy as might seem, but she was soon convinced that the drinking habit, although not the sole cause of the misery, seriously aggravated it. She met one woman who cheerfully offered to sign the pledge, but, it appeared, she had already signed it twenty times. Asked why she could not keep it, she said she had to pass twenty-one public-houses going home from her work. She might get past the first and the second, and even the third temptation, but with such an awful mass of temptation, she was bound to succumb.

Continuing her study of the problem, Mrs Snowden soon discovered that to deal with the liquor traffic it was necessary to have political power; and for the last ten years she had worked for political emancipation. She would never forget the shock of surprise that came upon her when, at 20 years of age, she realised that her mother had no vote. Every organisation in Britain, she said, was now working for this cause, and every other cause would receive little or no support until this was gained. The National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, of which she was the Vice-President, dated back to John Stuart Mill, who had such deep conviction on the emancipation of woman that he refused to marry his wife until her property was secured to her. The Union now had 500 branches, with a membership of 55,000, and an associate membership twice as large. Its methods were constitutional, and on this point she wished to say that in this Dominion there was a great deal of misunderstanding. The idea of many here probably was that the militant suffragettes in Great Britain constituted a great army of women anarchists. The newspapers knew that people generally like sensationalism, and so they give it, and many untruths have been cabled out. Men and boys, in mischief, often committed deeds of violence and spread Suffragette papers around to fasten the guilt on the Suffragettes. For instance, a large house in Scotland was burnt down, and the blame laid upon the Militants. A few days after it was discovered that a number of boys had done it. Unfortunately, the papers that give publicity to the damaging rumours are not always so ready to contradict them when the truth is established. As a matter of