

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

Vol. 21.—No. 241.

WELLINGTON, N.Z., JULY 19, 1915.

2s 6d Per Annum, Post Free.
Single Copy, 3d.

T. E. TAYLOR.

(The writer of the following brief sketch of Mr T. E. Taylor's character and career desires to acknowledge her indebtedness to various friends, whose tributes to his worth and ability she has freely made use of in its compilation.)

Mr T. E. Taylor was born in June, 1863, in Kerton Lindsey, Lincolnshire. His mother, a woman of extraordinary strength of character, and energy of mind and body, is still amongst us, and at the age of 82 has all her mental faculties clear and strong, accompanied with a wonderful amount of physical energy as well.

His father passed to higher life at the age of 75, and of him his son wrote as follows some little time before his death:—

"Think of it, you anxious, eager business man, as you strive for the bread that perisheth with an energy which leaves you with slight desire for the simpler joys of life. Here lay a man who never made a lucky spec. in his life. He had never bet on a horse race, or bought a section or shares for a rise—had never tried to corner a market. He coveted no man's land, or house, or pictures, or furniture, or possessions—his soul knew no envy; he has no unsatisfied ambition. He knew no social disappointment, because his spirit gave him the contentment which a natural life, and the performance of life's common duties can only afford.

"He was eagerly interested in the movements, whether political or social, which make for clean living, and

brought to bear upon the problems of the day a judgment free from personal interest. He understood the art of giving in much the same spirit as prompted the widow who threw her two mites into the treasury, and, as from one poorer than himself he never turned away, it is scarcely necessary to say that he has no real estate, and requires to make no last will and testament.

"At 74 years he was drawing near to the close of his great career. Of few men can it be said that they discharged the duties of life fearlessly, and that they have never suffered a sense of defeat in life's struggle; yet of this man it may be said with truth: Simply a man.

"What did he die worth?" is a question frequently asked of a man. No one will ever ask it of this man. Neither the legal profession nor the Government Stamp Duty Department will benefit by his death when it happens, and yet his children visit his bedside with feelings which many a millionaire might search for in vain amongst those who will share his gold. 'Yes,' he said last Sunday, 'I've had a royal life, and I've no fear of the great change that I feel is coming.' A contented and a just man."

All who knew Mr Taylor, senr., recognise the truth of this beautiful testimony to his sterling and Christian character.

When Mr T. E. Taylor was five years old the family moved to London, and by the time he was seven he was giving indications of his life's bent. A Band of Hope Mission was carried on near his home by a Mr Myers, a gentleman actively identified

with Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and the boy became, even then, an ardent helper. He signed the pledge himself, and never ceased worrying until his father, a very moderate drinker, had done the same, and was unceasing in his efforts to persuade the children in the neighbourhood to come to Mr Myers' meetings and sign the pledge.

At ten he came with his parents to New Zealand, and very soon after arrival they went to live at Addington, where the rest of his unmarried life was spent. He was no sooner settled in his new home than he resumed his temperance activities. He joined the Addington Free Methodist Band of Hope, and by the time he was sixteen he knew of every drink-cursed family within a mile of his father's house. The time that other lads of like age spend in amusements, in the cricket and football field, was devoted by him to earnest endeavours to induce men, women, and children to come to temperance meetings and sign the pledge. Time does not allow to tell of the cases which came to his knowledge, and in which he took a leading part, but they were many and various; and they burnt into his soul a passionate pity for the victims of drink, and an equally passionate hatred of a trade which works so much misery and degradation. He was but fourteen when he passed through a religious crisis, and definitely resolved to give his life to God, and immediately threw himself into religious work with energy and ardour. He offered his services as Sunday School teacher, but was considered too young. He met the intimation of this objection with