

which is imperilling its great inheritance, the traditions of freedom and order, which have come down to us from Runnymede, and which we hold in trust for one-fifth of all humanity.

**"In this hour of revelation the cause of Temperance takes its rank with all the greatest social causes of humanity, the fight for civil liberty, for religious tolerance, for the emancipation of the slave.**

"I call upon you to duty and to sacrifice in the year upon which we have entered."

What are we doing in our Dominion? Rev. Radford, in preaching at the Conference of the Baptist Church, spoke of the trinity of evils—drinking, gambling, and impurity. What are we doing to combat these evils? A sentiment is going about lately which shows such utter lack of faith in God as to be practical infidelity. We are told that it is useless to press for reforms because we shall not get any new legislation. What utter piffle! We got legislation enough last session, only it was of the wrong kind. We got an Act legalising raffling for patriotic purposes, also granting an extra race day to the Wellington Racing Club. Surely these things are not so urgent as Temperance reform.

No Government dares to refuse legislation for which there is anything like a national demand. Is there such a demand for restricting the liquor trader? We believe there is. When the Moderate League interviewed the Premier they spoke of "hysterical women who were circulating a petition for 6 o'clock closing." The "Evening Post," commenting on this statement, said that if the Moderate League were solacing themselves with the idea that it was only a few hysterical women who wanted early closing they were living in a fool's paradise. The "Post" then went on to speak of the public demand for restriction of the sale of strong drink. We believe there is such a demand that a petition of hundreds of thousands of signatures could be obtained by a systematic canvass of the Dominion. And more than this, we believe it to be the work of the W.C.T.U. to show the Government that there is this demand.

We know the demand made upon our women by patriotic work, but we fancy the Master would say, "This

ought ye to have done, and not to have left the other undone."

We trust that White Ribboners will come up to Convention full of faith, firmly believing that "more things are wrought by prayer than this world wots of." Be sure of this thing, that No Convention means No Aggressive Work. Are we prepared to drop all work and leave the forces of evil to work unhindered? There never was such a need to keep our work going. If we fail now to lead a willing people in a campaign for 6 o'clock closing, will we not in the future feel that we have been false to the trust God placed in us, and will it not be a chapter in our history of which we shall always be ashamed?

We must conquer the foe within before we dare expect God to give us the victory over the enemy without. This is a testing time for our Union. Are we going to sit down and do nothing while evil riots unchecked, or are we going with the power of a new pentecost in our hearts to meet and overcome this giant? It may be hard to do the work now, but if we drop it we will find it much harder to start again. This war is not going to leave the world where it found it, and in the future, when nations shall be cast into the crucible and a new order evolved, our women want to be alert and ready to lead in the path of progress and reform. The work may be hard; God never promised His servants that they should tread a primrose path. The outlook may not be hopeful. Was the outlook hopeful for those brave pioneers of the emancipation movement, but they battled on in the face of discouragement and persecution till God crowned their faith with victory.

If we cease aggressive work, the liquor interests will not do so. A recent deputation asked for the cutting out of the local No-License vote, and if they are aggressive and we are not, they will get it.

Only those in close touch with affairs know how the licensing law was observed while the 6 o'clock closing petition hung in the balance.

We firmly believe that a large petition, showing a national demand for restriction of liquor trade, would gain some restriction, but if not our activities will not be wasted if we keep the other side from gaining. Unless we are on the alert and are well organised and vigorous, we shall lose

ground next session, that it may take years to gain. Will White Ribboners note these three points?

(1) It is just as patriotic to fight the Liquor Trade as to fight the Germans, and love to the weak and self-sacrifice for them will enable us to do both kinds of work.

(2) No Convention means No Aggressive Work. No aggressive work means the field to be left free for the drinking and gambling interests to gain legislation, as they did last session.

(3) If the Wellington Racing Club could gain legislation for an extra day's racing in a time of such national calamity, surely a national demand for restricting the liquor trade—pronounced by Lloyd George England's greatest foe—should be able to compel legislation from a Government who depend upon the votes of the electors who sign the petition.

Let us **Ask** great things from God; **Expect** great things, and **Work** for great things.

God bends from out the deep and says—

"I gave thee the great gift of life;  
Wast thou not called in many ways?  
Are not My heaven and earth at strife?

"I gave thee of My seed to sow,  
Bringest thou Me My hundred-fold?"

Can I look up, with face aglow,  
And answer, "Father, here is gold?"

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The following resolutions were carried by the Anglican Synod at Melbourne:—

"That men convicted of sexual offences against children should be given indeterminate sentences, and placed under expert medical surveillance."

"That specially qualified women be appointed to patrol the public reserves for the protection of children and young girls."

"That qualified officials be appointed to take the depositions in all cases brought before the Courts of sexual offences regarding women and children."

"That in all Court cases of sexual offences against children the jury shall consist of an equal number of fathers and mothers."