

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

Vol. 23.—No. 271.

WELLINGTON, N.Z., JANUARY 18, 1918.

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

1918.

The old year's long campaign is o'er!
Behold, a new begun!

1917 has come and gone, and its successor is with us. Often in life it is a fatal thing to look back. Occasionally, however, it is foolish not to do so. As a business man stops to take stock in order that he may go forward more securely, so is it well for moral reformers at times to review the ground passed over. What more seasonable time for doing this than when close to the border line of the Old and New Years?

If we have made mistakes in strategy or practice, in plan or fulfilment, now is the time to learn wisdom by the things that we have suffered. If our efforts have met with success, it will hearten us for the coming fray to study the path that led to conquest.

In connection with our great Cause there have been few pitched battles during the year. For the most part the time has been spent in sharpening the sword and in making ready for future decisive conflict. In one instance, however, there has been more than "an affair of outposts," viz., the battle for 6 o'clock closing of hotel bars. "We fought and we won," and for this victory we thank first of all the Lord of Hosts, and then our loyal comrades throughout the Dominion. As we have only seen the fruits of victory during one whole month, it is too early to say much as to results. But our own observation of the working of this Reform during the most festive season of the year has told us that for the sale of liquor to be restricted to nine hours out of the twenty-four certainly tends to

sobriety. Nor is our observation unsupported by other evidence. Police Court returns and police reports all tell the same story—that the shortening of hours means diminished drinking. The "confessions," also, of those in the Trade as to decreases in takings say that we have not been wrong in our expectations beforehand, nor in our after estimate.

Who can say what the final outcome of this measure of reform will be? This we are bold to affirm that friends of Prohibition will have both their convictions and arguments strengthened, and it is not outside the bounds of possibility that many "moderates" will learn that if a little prohibition prohibits a little, then total prohibition will prohibit more than a little. The Dunedin "Evening Star" of to-day (January 9th) tells how an avowed New Zealand "moderate," living at the present time in Canada, is loud in his praises of the working of the prohibitory law in a large portion of that great Dominion. May like conversion come to all our "neutral" friends!

Having learned that even a New Zealand Government will listen when the people of New Zealand in sufficient numbers and with sufficient earnestness say what they want and must have, let us take fresh courage and say that whilst the drink foe remains in our country, we never will lay down our arms, Never! NEVER! NEVER!

In saying this, let us remind ourselves again that our Union is a "Christian" as well as a "Temperance" Union. Because of this fact, "our weapons are not carnal, but mighty to the pulling down of strongholds." Therefore let us sing—

Strong to meet the foe, marching on
we go,

While our cause we know must prevail;

Shield and banner bright gleaming
in the light,

Battling for the right, we ne'er can fail!

Rouse then, soldiers, rally
round the banner!

Ready, steady, pass the
word along.

Onward! Forward! Shout
aloud Hosanna!

Christ is Captain of the
mighty throng!

WHISKY OFFICIALLY DISCARDED.

Dr A. G. Hyde, Superintendent of the State Hospital at Cleveland, ordered the assistant physicians under him to eliminate whisky entirely in their prescriptions. After several months trial the experiment proved so successful that the doctor said that never while he was Superintendent should whisky be used in that institution. The members of the Board held that if the Cleveland Hospital, with its 1,700 patients, could successfully do without whisky, it would be practical to do without it in all state institutions.

A Toronto paper reports that a number of cigar firms have decided to go out of business, and other cigar firms are considering the same course, the advent of prohibition having caused a serious drop in the consumption of cigars.