

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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A PERSONAL QUESTION.

Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? An old question, a pertinent question, a personal question.

An old question. First heard upon the Syrian plain from the lips of Saul the Pharisee. That energetic nature must be at work, and when arrested by the bright light and convinced that his past work had been evil, like a flash came the query: Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?

It was a time when kingdoms, nations, and dynasties were in the melting-pot, and this man was chosen of God to be the leader of His people. Paul's whole life furnished the answer to this question, an answer once put into words by the Apostle, "For me to live is Christ." I live only to do His will.

A pertinent question. To-day is also a time of world crisis. For this Dominion the next three months will be a time of crisis, great issues will be decided, greater perhaps than most people realise. At such a time, more than ever, the question of Saul must find an echo in the heart of every thoughtful, earnest woman. If each one answers the question in the same whole-souled manner as did the great Apostle of old, the issue next April must be a triumphant victory for the cause of right.

A personal question. What wilt Thou have *me* to do? Not what is my President, my leader, to do, but what am I to do? What will *Thou* have me to do? Not what do my friends, my relatives wish me to do; but what does the Eternal God wish me to do. Reverently, upon our knees, let us ask this question; patiently let us wait upon God for an answer; earnestly, faithfully, let us arise and obey the Divine voice. May the language of each heart be, "Surely my Captain may depend on me, Though but an armour-bearer I may be." Give thought to the subject; study it up to meet objections. Talk about it to everybody you meet in your daily round; write to absent friends and ask them to help us to make New Zealand dry. Create an atmosphere of expectation. Pray and believe. expect victory; work for victory.

If *one vote* fails us that you might have influenced, your duty is not done. This is to be a fight to the finish, no faltering, no halting, till that grim enemy of *God and Home and Humanity*—the licensed liquor bar—is defeated, out-voted, and banished, and we sing the triumph song over a dry Dominion.

The oft-repeated words of our now sainted leader, Mrs L. M. N. Stevens, will bear yet another repetition: "At the end of this fight any Union which has one cent left in its treasury, or one ounce of energy left among its members, is unworthy the name of a Woman's Christian Temperance Union."

WORK AND PRAYER. They cannot be divorced. What is earnestly prayed for must be greatly desired. What is greatly desired must be ardently worked for.

"O, it is hard to work for God,
 To rise and take His part,
 Upon this battlefield of earth,
 And not sometimes lose heart.

Workman of God, O lose not heart,
 But learn what God is like;
 And in the darkest battlefield
 Thou shalt know where to strike."

We cannot do better, in closing, than quote the call to prayer from the page of our esteemed contemporary, "The Methodist Times":—

"But there is one way of helping in this struggle for the overthrow of the liquor curse that we wish specially to commend to our readers. It was prayer that won for us six o'clock closing. It was prayer that secured the astonishing result of a Bill providing for a vote for National Prohibition on a bare majority. And it will be prayer that will be the most important factor in bringing off a National Prohibition victory. Therefore, to your knees, O Israel! Let God be entreated to give the strength of His right arm to those who are fighting for the overthrow of the greatest barrier that exists to the spread of His kingdom. Daily let the prayer go up from every Christian heart: O God, speed the cause of Prohibition to a successful issue on April 10." More than that. The suggestion has been made, which we cordially endorse, that every Church in New Zealand should be opened, say, on two evenings a week, in which those whose hearts are touched may meet for united prayer on behalf of this cause. Let all be encouraged to pray, not only those who can lift up their voices in prayer, but those also who pray in silence. There need be no formality about such meetings. It is not necessary that the minister should be always there. He ought to have his hands full with other work in connection with the movement. All ordinary engagements should be suspended in view of the tremendous issues at stake on April 10. Who can doubt the result if God's people all over the country join in fervent supplication on behalf of victory? God has honoured faithful, believing prayer in the past, and He will honour it again if we only put Him to the test. LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY."

A cause like ours is holy,
 And it useth holy things,
 While o'er the storm of a righteous
 strife
 May shine the angel's wings.

Where'er our duty leads us,
 The grace of God is there,
 And the lurid shrine of war
 May hold the eucharist of prayer.