

to us all. In my early days of campaigning he was a tower of strength to me, and I owe much to his kindly help and advice. A few days before his death I saw him for the final farewell, when he said, "The old anchor still holds." And we can rejoice that he is now anchored in the Haven of Rest. He builded well, this great-souled comrade, and the memory of his work will live in our hearts always, and be an inspiration to more devoted service.

A great gap has been created in the public life of New Zealand through the death of the late W. F. Massey, Prime Minister for nearly thirteen successive years, to whom remarkable tributes of esteem were paid from all parts of the Empire, and from the Allies of Great Britain.

The Royal Family was bereaved late in the year by the death of Queen Alexandra, who is mourned throughout the British Empire, and whose passing evoked recognition of the rare combination of qualities in this most gracious personality.

Beside these notable persons there were some from our own Union, whose loss we mourn to-day. In the closing days of 1925, Mrs Whincop, ex-President of the Greytown Union, went home to God. For fourteen years she was linked up with the Union, first in Masterton, and then in Greytown. Her last effort against the liquor traffic was to record her vote at the November election. A few weeks later she "laid hold on Eternal life" whereunto she was called. On the last day in the last week of 1925, we lost another valued worker from the Ashburton Union. Mrs George Bowman was one of the most tactful and faithful workers in the Prohibition movement, and was never happier than in being of service to others. Already in the press and in our own paper tender tributes have been paid to our comrades, but we now express our sympathy with their bereaved. May the Prince of Peace speak comfortably to every heart.

Turning now from consideration of the past to look forward to the future, a wonderful programme of development and service opens before us.

Beginning with Organisation, let us have a campaign for increased membership, each Union a recruiting station, each member a commissioned officer to win the new recruits. Hold meetings wherever you can—in schools, halls, or private houses.

More must be done to influence legislators. Each Union should get into personal touch with its own representative. Let him know what you are doing, and know from him what the House is doing. Let him realise that you are looking to him to work for the elimination of the third issue and the provision of a two-issue ballot paper at next election.

Individual members of every local Union must realise that the needful education work is not to be undertaken by the leaders alone. All must take pains to know the facts about Total Abstinence, and the evils of alcohol, and then tell them to friends and neighbours. Upon us rests the responsibility and the obligation to build up so strong a sentiment for Prohibition that the Liquor Traffic will no longer be tolerated. And let us try to keep the women constantly interested, having more parades, picnics, Prohibition parties, and anything possible to keep the subject constantly before us.

Let us resolve to consecrate ourselves, our money, our talents, to the work of God, and in His love, with joy and unity of purpose, go forward in the spirit of prayer.

Someone has said, "Prayer is an applied science—a method of moving the arm of God, according to His own direction and in harmony with His own will." When concentrated on any one petition, "focussed prayer" is the most powerful dynamic force, and it is strange that we allow such a power to be so feebly used, and so frequently neglected.

The greatest miracles ever wrought were those wrought in answer to prayer. Prayer divided seas, rolled up flowing rivers, made of a flinty rock a gushing fountain, marshalled the stars against the wicked, stopped the course of the moon, arrested the sun in its great race, brought one man from the bottom of the sea, carried another in a chariot of fire, stopped rain from falling for three years, muzzled lions, commanded legions of angels from Heaven, conquered devils, healed diseases, and claimed victories. He who gave the power to do these wonders is the same unchanging God. The Lord of Hosts is His name, who is with us to-day. Let us remember and dwell upon these great acts of omnipotent power, that our faith may be strengthened, our enthusiasm re-kindled, and that we may consecrate our lives afresh, moving for-

ward in His strength to help to bring His Kingdom into all hearts, all homes, and all Governments.

I WILL PAINT YOU A SIGN.

I will paint you a sign, drink seller,
and hang it over your door;
ever you had before.

I will paint with the skill of a master,
and many shall pause to see
This wonderful piece of painting, so
like the reality.

I will paint you a sign, drink seller,
as you wait for the stalwart boy,
Who is just in the morn of manhood,
his mother's hope and joy,
He has no thought of drinking till
you greet him with a smile,
And you seem so blithe and friendly
that he stops to think awhile.

And I will next paint him a drunkard,
that only a year has flown,
But into his loathsome creature that
fair young boy had grown.
The work was sure and rapid,—I will
paint him as he lies
In a torpid drunken slumber, under
the wintry skies.

I will paint you a form of the mother,
as she kneels at her darling's
side,—
Her beautiful boy that was dearer
than all the world beside.
I will paint you the shape of a coffin
labelled with one word—"Lost!"
I will paint all this, drink-seller, and
I will paint it free of cost.

The sin, and the shame, and sorrow,
the crime and want and woe,
That are born there—in your drink-
shop—no hand can paint you
know;
But I'll paint you a sign, drink-seller,
and many shall pause to view
This wonderful, swinging sign-board,
—so terribly fearfully true!

EPILEPTICS.

"Ten per cent. of the epileptics here are entirely and absolutely traceable to alcohol. As to those indirectly due, I cannot deal in percentages but take this from me: 'Wipe out drink and syphilis, and you can shut up every asylum, every mental hospital, every nerve hospital in Christendom.'"