

## President's Message

Dear Friends,—

Once again we are facing that very important part of our work—the nomination of Dominion Officers and Superintendents for 1949.

May I remind those who have not been very long in the Union that no one may be nominated unless she has definitely given her consent, and, having given it, she should not withdraw it except for some very serious reason, such as ill-health, either her own or of some member of her family who is dependent on her. Let us earnestly pray that we may accept God's guidance in our choice of Officers and Superintendents.

Did you know that our Editor has received great honour in the Women's Institute? I am sure that we all wish heartily to congratulate her. We feel that we bask in the reflected glory of her achievement.

How proud are you of the W.C.T.U.? If your pride is only a very mild affair will you carefully re-read an article by Mrs. Hiatt beginning on page 2 of the August "White Ribbon"? There you will see how well worth while the Union is of your prayers and, also, how much you, as a Union member, have to be proud of.

Soon you will be, as far as meetings go, thinking of going into recess, and as you make plans for a good start in 1949 please bear in mind that next year is poll year, and that we will have no time to spare making plans when we should have our work well under way.

There is good literature to be obtained from Headquarters, and even a little of it carefully and prayerfully distributed during the holiday season will help in educating those "who need to know."

We need to remember too, that being in recess does not mean slackening in our efforts to defeat the liquor trade. The Devil has never been known to take a holiday. His efforts to debase our young men and women will not stop because we are "taking a holiday."

There can be no doubt of our ultimate victory but it can only come through prayer and faith in God. He has promised the victory and no one CAN prevent His keeping His promise. There's a glorious day before us. "Don't stop praying that good may win—don't stop praying. God answers prayer." The day is soon coming when our banner shall stand in the field of Victory.

My loving greetings to you all,

C. E. KIRK, Dominion President.

## "Within the Veil"

MISS MARY JACKSON,  
ASHBURTON UNION

The Ashburton Union records the passing of one of their most devoted and best-loved members, in the person of Miss Mary Jackson, in her 80th year.

She was a member of the Ashburton Union since the time when she first came to the town, 47 years ago. She served the Union in the capacity of President, Vice-President, Superintendent of "Work among Seamen," and of the "Band of Hope" with the utmost diligence and selfless devotion. During the years she was very rarely absent from a meeting, until compelled by illness to give up.

Her work was characterised by vigour and zeal. She never thought anything too difficult to do in the interests of "God, Home and Humanity." Her love for souls, especially of young people, was the motive of her indefatigable fight against the liquor traffic and its attendant evils. We, who gathered at the graveside, had the joy of knowing that she was "For ever with the Lord." During her long life she had served Him faithfully and well and has received His "Well done." We look forward to meeting her "In the morning."

MRS. A. PLATT, HENDERSON  
UNION

The Henderson Union regrets to record the recent passing of Mrs. A. Platt at the age of 87. She was a faithful and earnest worker for the Temperance Cause. Mrs. Platt was one of the foundation members when the Union was formed 34 years ago. She was elected President in 1922 and remained in that office for 17 years, when she was compelled to retire through failing health. Although unable to attend the meetings for many years past, she was always keenly interested in our work. Her strong, brave and noble character was an inspiration to all who knew her. She was one of the first pioneers of the district, having lived in Henderson for over 50 years. The love and esteem in which she was held was shown by the large number who attended the funeral service to pay their last tribute to one whose memory will be ever honoured.

## "DEVOTIONAL PERIOD"

HYMN 68

O it is hard to work for God  
To rise and take His part  
Upon this battle-field of life  
And not sometimes lose heart.

Workman of God, Oh, lose not heart,  
But learn what God is like;  
And in the darkest battle-field  
Thou shalt know where to strike.

For right is right, since God is God,  
And right the day must win;  
To doubt would be disloyalty  
To falter would be sin.

Scripture Reading: 2nd Corinthians,  
Ch. 12, Vs. 7-10.

In no work for God is the power of discouragement more felt than in that done for Temperance. The dreadful power of the drink habit, which can bring to naught so much desire for better things, and so much earnest prayer for the rescue of the poor victim, seems at times to take away all hope and belief in the value of effort to counteract it.

Many years ago, in a great City Mission in the Home Country, after a great concert had been held on a Saturday evening as a means of keeping a few hundreds of people out of the public-houses with which the district was lavishly supplied, supper was being served to the artists who had provided the programme. Deaconesses and staff workers were in and out of the room, when a young eager girl came to the Deaconess in charge of the little function and whispered to her. The face of the Deaconess lit up strangely, and she rose from her chair, saying quietly, "Annie has signed the pledge for the 23rd time. Will you excuse me?"

"The 23rd time?" was the incredulous response. "But, how discouraging."

"Discouraging?" cried she. "Oh, it is most wonderfully encouraging. If she stopped signing, then I **should** be discouraged."

This Deaconess bore a name widely known and honoured in many lands. The holy light that shone in her face revealed her faith in the possibility of "Annie's" final victory. Is not this the secret for us? The "frequent fall" of the poor drinker, however heart-breaking, should not daunt us, but should stimulate to more earnest effort.

Let us thank God for all the wonderful ways in which He can take hold of the broken life, the enfeebled will and the deadened conscience, and restore strength and courage to the fallen.

Prayer.