

## “Within the Veil”

### MRS. FRANCES D. SMITH, GORE UNION

On Monday, November 1st, White Ribboners in Southland found it hard to believe that Mrs. Smith, who had, just three days before, taken a leading part in the Annual District Convention at Invercargill, had been taken from us by the hand of death. She had passed away in her sleep during Sunday night.

Mrs. Smith had been for many years President of the Gore Union, and was still holding that office. Her greatest work for the Union was in the Cradle Roll Department, of which she was Dominion Superintendent for a number of years. Although handicapped by deafness, she carried on in every field of Christian work, being a faithful member of the Methodist Church. She will be greatly missed by the people of Gore, where she and her late husband (who passed away last year) were held in the highest esteem. “People are going round looking stunned,” was one comment heard in Gore on Monday. Those who heard her speak on Friday will not soon forget her message.

### MISS AGNES AITKEN PEARSON TIMARU UNION

A lifetime of teaching was the service Miss A. A. Pearson gave to South Canterbury, and particularly Timaru. Her death in the middle of October, at the age of 85, will be regretted by many former pupils of Timaru Main School, where Miss Pearson laboured for a large portion of her life. The many telegrams and letters received by her sister are a tribute to the influence Miss Pearson exercised in her quiet, unassuming manner. She also gave long service as a Choir member and Sunday School teacher at Trinity Church, and was a valued member of the W.C.T.U., being Treasurer of the Sailors' Rest for many years.

### MRS. LONGBOTTOM, AUCKLAND UNION

A devoted member of long standing in the Auckland Union recently received very suddenly, the “Home Call.” Mrs. Longbottom was of a very quiet, retiring nature, but so true to the Temperance Cause and W.C.T.U. She had reached the age of ninety years, and through failing sight was unable to attend the meetings regularly. She was with us at the “Pay-up” Social, and presented her usual gift. She was

looking forward to attending the reception at the District Convention, but on that very afternoon her funeral service was held at the Grey Lynn Methodist Church. The large gathering of friends and the many beautiful wreaths were a tribute to the esteem in which she was held.

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” “Her heart was pure, her hope was sure.”

### MRS. E. CHADWICK, HENDERSON UNION

It is with the deepest sorrow that Henderson reports the passing of their much-loved President, Mrs. E. Chadwick, who passed away suddenly at her home on October 30th. It can truthfully be said of her that she died in harness. Although her health had been very poor for some time, which prevented her going out, she conducted the meetings at her own home. She has been our faithful President for ten years. Her sweet presence will be sadly missed at the meetings. Her fine Christian character, her kindness, courage and unselfishness endeared her to all, and leaves behind a happy memory. Our cause has lost a devoted and faithful worker, whose place will not easily be filled. Her passing is a great loss to the community, but the influence of her life will be felt for a long time to come. Our sympathy goes out to her sister, Mrs. Dickinson, in her sad loss.

### MRS. FRANCES RYDE, OXFORD UNION

In the passing of Mrs. Ryde to Higher Service, the Oxford Union has lost a foundation member who, through the long years, never lost her faith in, and enthusiasm for, the work of the W.C.T.U. In her seventeen years as President much valuable work was done in the district. Her efforts, ably supported by her late husband, in connection with the catering for the local Show, were highly successful, due largely to her organisation and personal influence. Her simple faith and trust in God did much to keep the atmosphere, wherever she worked, sweet and helpful.

Owing to failing health in later years, she was unable to attend the meetings, but our love for her was very sincere, and her continued witness in her home was always real and alive. The whole district will be the poorer now she is at rest, but her influence will live in our hearts always.

## “Devotional Period”



HYMN No. 8, W.R. Hymnal.

Scripture Reading: St. Luke 2,  
verses 8-18.

“Abiding in the Field.”

It was so wonderful that the song was heard by these simple, country shepherds alone, and that to them was entrusted the lovely task of giving the world a story of such astounding beauty. Not to the educated, learned, sophisticated “Wise Men” was the vision given, or the extraordinary, terrifying delight of that music. “Abiding in the field.” It was a somewhat dreary task, that of watching over the flocks by night. The danger of an attack on the flock from wolves, or from robbers; the possibility of loss by straying, the necessity for vigilance in the cold of the winter night, lest the sheep should suffer for want of such shelter as could be given them—these were constant dangers, and it was the regular, perhaps monotonous task of the shepherd to be vigilant through the dark hours.

What an amazing experience for men under such conditions! Under any conditions it would have been amazing, but “suddenly,” the music began, the Angel appeared and spoke, and life could never be the same again for them. How one longs to know the sound of the music, the cadence of that song whose echoes have never died down and which is sung as mortals sing for as long as they inhabit this earth. To have heard angels—to have actually listened to the music of Heaven—was a thing reserved for these men who were “Abiding in the field.”

Yet, is it not true that even now, in the quiet, unquestioning carrying on of the daily routine, the task of monotony and endless necessity, the heart hears the song? The message of Peace and Goodwill is ever being repeated. In the deep innermost places of the soul, it is heard above and through all the sorrow and turmoil of life. Let us, for every reason, keep our hearing keen and alert. All joy, all strength, all sense of safety and security may be ours if we let ourselves be aware of the mystery and wonder which are surely round and about us. So shall Christmas Tide be our opportunity for listening, and what we hear shall lift life on to a higher plane for ourselves and so for all around us. This will be a “Happy Christmas.”

PRAYER.