

others in that direction; and even to reform society and influence national legislation. What right have they to thrust their personal opinions upon others, like that? They have every right. All round us the fearful ravages caused by this evil indulgence are manifest. They include sudden danger to life, limb, and property. One morning in Mount Eden Road I saw a small car literally wrapped round an electric-wire pole. Later I learned that a drunken driver had driven it there, and a girl was killed in the smash. That driver must have passed, a quarter of a mile away, a church with a Temperance poster showing a skull and cross bones, and bearing the words, "Death rides with the drunken driver." And Death rode with him that night! But what if YOU had been on the footpath just there and then? There might have been a double tragedy; not by mechanical breakdown or unavoidable accident, but by the imbecility of mind caused by strong drink. The W.C.T.U. has every right to demand reformatory legislation that will make such things impossible.

"Alcohol will remove stains from summer clothes," says a "Household Hint." A witty writer pungently added, "This is true, but it also removes the summer clothes, the spring, autumn and winter clothes—not only from the one who drinks it, but from the wife and family as well. It also removes the household furniture, the eatables from the pantry, the smiles from the face of his patient wife, the laughter from the innocent lips of his children, and the happiness out of his home. As a remover of things, alcohol has no equal."

But alcohol does more; it deadens the intellect towards the appeal of the Gospel, which has the promise of the life to come. Conversely, by the power of the Spirit of God through the Gospel, the deadly temptation of strong drink can be overcome.

A young man was converted. An acquaintance said to him, "The most terrible thing I ever heard and they expected me to believe, was that there was a God in the beginning, and that He had taken a piece of mud, and breathed into it the breath of life and it became a man!" This young Christian answered, "My friend, I wasn't there; all I know is what the Bible says in that regard. But I have this to say to you—I was a drunkard, I was a thief; I lived a life in sin in the greatest degree; and one day Jesus Christ found this piece of mud and cleansed my heart, washed me with His precious blood, and now I am connected to Him, and am happy on my way to heaven. My children used to be bare, they needed the necessities of life, because I used my money for drink and consumed it in whisky and beer, and all that goes with it. Now I have carpets on my floor, and furniture in my house. We have a car; and we are happy in Jesus Christ. I

was dead in sin; now I am alive through Him."

It would be a tragic loss to the nation if the work of the W.C.T.U. were given up. Against the menace of strong drink all too few voices are raised. The Government gives much attention to the education of the young; spends thousands of pounds to establish a National Orchestra; and even advertises "Don't Spit"; upsets the nation's life by regulations to combat the infantile paralysis epidemic; puts people on short rations of meat, tea, sugar, butter, and petrol; but what utter folly is it that leaves this disgraceful trade so free to spread its poison and sin and degradation and wreckage everywhere; and tends rather to discourage the noble efforts of those who would seek to clamp it down.

It is a constant battle against a malignant enemy who is in a strongly entrenched position, because "the people love to have it so." But few battles have gone smoothly from the first shot to the final victory as either side planned. There is always a fierce swaying back and forth. The man who brought out the "daylight saving" idea died in disappointment at the derision with which his idea was hailed: he did not live to see it adopted all over the world. The W.C.T.U. has an infinitely higher cause than that; it is the saving of lives from destruction in this life, and from perdition in the life to come. It is the Lord's work; it is carried out under His banner; and they can confidently take to themselves those great words of divine encouragement: "Therefore, my beloved sisters, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

FORM OF BEQUEST

"I give and bequeath to the NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION (INC.) for (here insert the general, or the specific purpose)

- (a) The general purposes of the Society, or
- (b) The general purposes of the Centre (or sub-centre) of the Union,

the sum of £ or (description of property given), for which the receipt of the Dominion Secretary, Dominion Treasurer, or other Dominion officer shall be a good discharge therefor to my trustee."

The New Zealand
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN
TEMPERANCE UNION (INC.)

Dominion Headquarters,
46 and 48 Brougham Street,
Wellington.

President's Message



Dear Friends,

Please accept my very best wishes for 1949. May it be a very happy year for each one of us, made so by the amount and quality of the service we give to Christ our Leader.

As the year opens we find that we must enter a pitched battle to retain 6 o'clock closing of the hotel bars. Many of you may not remember the evils attendant on 10 o'clock closing and so will, perhaps, find it difficult to realise what the earlier closing hour has meant to our towns and cities. Young or old we know that the later closing hour means greater facilities for drinking and, as the promoters of this evil trade well know, more young people will be taught to drink alcohol and at least some, if not many, will through those later hours alone lose their health and honour, spoil their homes and bring shame and sorrow to those who love them and to those who shall come after them.

Do not for one moment forget that alcohol is still a poison no matter at what hour or under what conditions it is sold.

Do not forget, either, that those who do less than their utmost to banish the liquor trade are helping to keep it in power. Just think what a difference it would make if all the people who consider themselves "good Church people" would vote solidly for the earlier closing hour.

"Fight the good fight with all thy might

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy might."

So we go forward undaunted to the Victory that lies ahead.

Hoping to meet many of you at Convention.

Believe me,

Your friend,

C. E. KIRK,
Dominion President.