

President's Message

My dear Comrades,

As I greet you for the first time in this new capacity, I feel deeply conscious of the spirit of friendship and loving-kindness with which the members of our Women's Christian Temperance Union have so graciously enwrapped me throughout the years of my service as Organiser and co-worker. I appreciate it very deeply and thank you for it.

Another mile-stone in our work, our 62nd Dominion Convention, has been passed; and I think that to most, if not all of us, it will be a memorable one. The gracious and outstanding leadership of our beloved friend, Miss C. E. Kirk, set a remarkably high standard of efficiency; and carried fresh enthusiasm and encouragement to every heart. To Miss Kirk, and Mrs. Hiett, as they retire from their respective offices, we would pay a heartfelt tribute of love and gratitude for their long and devoted service to the Union, and to those who have been privileged to work with them for God, Home and Humanity.

In accepting the call to be your President, I feel that God's call has come to me through your voices; and so, together, relying upon the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, and trusting in God for strength, we go forward to the task awaiting us.

The present position in our own country, and world-wide, revealing a spiritual, social and moral landslide, which, if not stemmed, will bring very serious consequences, is causing much concern. The late Dr. S. D. Gordon said, in 1933, "The direction in which the moral finger of a nation points indicates what will happen to that nation. The moral finger of the world is pointing downwards. Something terrible must happen." A WORLD WAR HAPPENED.

The W.C.T.U. has, as its chief aim, that "righteousness which exalteth a nation." In all our work that aim is kept in view. Against the dark background of today, the W.C.T.U. stands out as a beacon, pointing the people back to God and His good way, wherein they will find rest of soul. Let us then continue to stand fast against every evil thing, unafraid; pray and work unceasingly until the forces of evil are driven back and out. I BELIEVE WE CAN ONLY COMBAT AND DEFEAT THE FORCES OF EVIL ON THE SPIRITUAL PLANE.

The W.C.T.U. Forward Movement, OUR FIVE-YEAR PLAN, approved by Convention, will be placed before all the Unions in detail.

"Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path and Christ the prize."

Yours in His cause,

CATHERINE M. McLAY.

"Within the Veil"

MRS. ELIZABETH PEARSON

Brooklyn Union

Another heavy loss has been sustained by the Brooklyn Union in the passing of Mrs. Elizabeth Pearson, a foundation member, and a W.C.T.U. member for over 35 years. She was one of those who sponsored the Union when it was formed by Miss C. McLay over 20 years ago; and she was one of its most faithful members till her death early this year.

Mrs. Pearson had charge of a "Bring and Buy" table at the meetings, and she stocked it with cakes and pickles, chiefly of her own making, and for which she was noted. Each year she provided an iced cake for the Union's birthday celebration. She loved to give, and her sympathies were always with those in need.

For years, Mrs. Pearson represented the W.C.T.U. on the Wellington Hospital Auxiliary, and on the Bible in Schools League.

A valiant worker has gone to receive her reward; but she will live in the hearts of those who mourn the loss of a faithful friend and fellow-worker. "She rests from her labours and her works do follow her."

MR. JOHN WALLACE

Takapuna

Deep sympathy was expressed with Mrs. J. Wallace, of the Takapuna Union, in the death of her husband, who was a lifelong temperance worker. Always ready to lend a helping hand in any good work, his death leaves a gap not easily to be filled. As a member of the Methodist Church, his services were highly valued. One of the foundation stones of the present building was laid by him; and his truly Christian life was the theme of the tributes paid to his memory. A very large number attended the funeral on February 9th; public bodies being represented, also the W.C.T.U., Foresters' and Orange Lodges. The Mayor and previous mayors of Takapuna were present also. Mrs. Wallace is the "W.R." agent; and is a worker of long standing.

"Devotional

Period"



Hymn 143

Scripture Reading: St. John, Chap. 21, vs. 11-18.

At the sepulchre

Early morning saw Mary Magdalene at the tomb, with her grief newly awakened, and the dreadful agony that only the mourner can understand, that comes with the awakening from the heavy sleep of exhaustion following on overwhelming sorrow. She was weeping. The simplicity of the statement makes the scene very real to us. Poor Mary! All that her tears expressed cannot be realised; but every woman knows that in her grief, she was one with womanhood the world over. Looking into the sepulchre, and finding that the loved body was not there, another element entered into the suffering heart of Mary. Stolen! Gone all the hope of ministering to the lifeless clay. Some solace there would have been if she could have done her little share in that loving last service; but it was not to be; and Mary's tears fell faster in her disappointment and pain. And then, the heartbroken enquiry of the supposed gardener showed how bitter was her suffering, "Tell me where Thou hast laid Him," she cried.

Oh that moment of revelation! Too wonderful, too sacred for words to describe. It came to the two at Emmaus that same evening, when He was known to them in the breaking of bread. It came to Thomas after darkness and despair of doubt. It came to Peter on the lake shore in the early morning. Not in protestations, not in appeals to the reason, but in the quiet irresistible, unconquerable might of His resurrection the Lord opened the eyes of those who loved Him. Have we seen Him as these earlier ones did?

Prayer

In the silence, Oh Lord, our Redeemer, open our eyes that we may see Thee as Thou art, risen, victorious over death and the grave. Let us realise Thy presence here. Grant us to follow Thee; to give ourselves to Thy service; to feed Thy lambs; and to seek and save the lost. We give thanks from our full hearts for Thy life and death for us and for our redemption; and pray for the power of Thy Holy Spirit in all our ways. Guide us in all things; lead us to clearer understanding; and give to us the consciousness of Thine abiding presence in all our work and in all circumstances.

Amen.