

where the Polyglot Petition was displayed. The signatures to this petition came to hand in fifty languages, and these signatures, with the attestations of great societies, given through their officers, make up seven millions of names. It required the work of one woman two years to put the petition together.

MISS AGNES SLACK.

In 1896 Miss Agnes Slack came to America by invitation of the National W. C. T. U., where she was warmly welcomed, and in five months travelled fifteen thousand miles in Canada and through the Northern and Southern States, going as far as Florida.

One of the latest missionary undertakings of the society has been to send Mrs. Helen M. Stoddard, president of the Texas W. C. T. U., to the great convocation of missionaries in Mexico, recently assembled at the capital. The work of international peace and arbitration has been prominent from the first in our society. Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey, of Maine, a staunch Quaker and probably the wealthiest woman in that State, has freely given of her time and money to help on this cause.

The work of Mrs. Mary H. Hunter, of the department of scientific temperance instruction in the public schools, is well known; to describe it would require a chapter by itself. We believe that while everything is not in the temperance reform, the temperance reform is in everything; that each philanthropic movement has its temperance aspect, and with this we are to deal.

We are one world of tempted humanity, and the mission of the W. C. T. U. is to organize the motherhood of the world for peace and purity, for the protection and exaltation of its homes. We are sending forth an earnest call to our sisters across all seas and to our brothers none the less. We are no longer hedged about by the artificial boundaries of states and nations, but we are saying as women what good and great men long ago declared: "The whole world is my parish and to do good my religion."

THE WORLD'S W. C. T. U.

THE CONVENTION AT TORONTO—CROWDED MEETINGS IN CHURCH AND HALL—LIVELY INTEREST TAKEN IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED.

The World's Convention which opened on Saturday at Toronto has been the great event of the year in woman's work. It was preceded by the annual meeting of the Dominion W. C. T. U., which prepared the way for the greater body.

Miss Willard presided. She is the natural born leader of the white ribboned hosts. What Neal Dow has been she is. Her influence is remarkable and it is world-wide. Her position she owes to her personal qualities and her devotion to the cause she so faithfully serves.

On the platform with Miss Willard, at the opening session were:—Miss Agnes E. Slack, Secretary; Mrs. Rutherford, Dominion President; Miss Anna A. Gordon, Mrs. Kirk and Mrs. Ardill, Australia; Miss Warr, Victoria; Miss Johnnedottir, Iceland; Miss Tomo Inouye and Miss M. A. Veazey, Japan; Miss Ericson, Finland; Mrs. Gordon Culick, Spain; Mrs. Krikorian, Armenia; Layah Barakat, Syria; Mrs. Lile, England; Sister Lile, England; Miss Shafner, China; Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, U.S.A.; Ester Alonzo Lopez, Spain; Misses Vincent and Cummings, Australian organizers; Mrs. Barnard, Collingwood; Mrs. Geo. Robinson and Miss H. M. Robinson, Toronto; Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Alabama; Mrs. Leonora M. Lake, St. Louis, Mo.; Emily Rose Blebey, Cardiff, South Wales; the Countess di Brazza, Universal Peace Union; Miss Beremie Perkins, Rochester, N.Y.; Miss Marion A. Mills, Concepcion, Chili; Miss Swankie Cameron, London, England; Mrs. Frances J. Barnes, New York; Mrs. R. W. McLachlan, Montreal; Mrs. Emma R. Atkinson, Canada; Mrs. Roberta E. Tilton, Canada; Mrs. Charlton Edholme, Florence Catherston, Chicago Ill.; Maurice Gregory, Secretary Friends' Association (of England) for Abolishing State Regulation of Vice; Prof. Oliver S. Westover, representing the temperance workers of southern California; Mrs. Westover Alden, New York; Rev. D. V. Lucas, D.D., Toronto; Mrs. Dr. Youmans, Winnipeg; Miss A. L. A. Murcutt, Mrs. G. E. Ardill.

MISS WILLARD'S ADDRESS.

The proceedings began by appropriate devotional exercises and then Miss Willard delivered her bi-annual address. A few of her remarks only can be here recorded but had space permitted it would have been well worth publishing in full.

Speaking of the Canadian plebiscite she said: Canada leads the world to day in the great prohibition struggle, and it leads with cheering prospects of success. The country is homogeneous; it has not that great foreign population to contend with by which we are

almost fatally handicapped; its people are serious minded and practical; its average standard of morals and religion is higher than ours; it has put itself on record by a popular plebiscite in which prohibition triumphed; it has survived the honors of the Royal Commission to investigate the liquor traffic, and is on the eve of another popular vote, in which, although it must contend against the united power of the alcohol trade in all countries which will be brought to bear upon its politicians and its people, we have faith to believe (and we go largely by sight as well, because this thing has been done once) that "Our Lady of the Snows" is going to pluck from the heavens of purity and plant on her own fair brow the bright star of prohibition, which means happy homes to her people and a harbinger of peace to all the world.

ARBITRATION TREATIES.

The cause of peace has won great victories this year. The arbitration treaty with our mother country is only lying over; already we have reason to believe that through the influence of the President arrangements are being made for the presentation of another treaty of wider scope, and it is not improbable that we may soon be saying, "How good it was to reject the less valuable that we might gain a greater, even a universal treaty of peace."

The Storting of Norway has appointed a committee of nine to consider the question of forming arbitration treaties with foreign nations, and to submit proposals to that end. It is well known that France is moving in the same direction, and the recent declarations of the Czar and the Emperor of Germany are unmistakably in favor of pacific measures, while the treaty between Turkey and Greece recently promulgated by the powers is a peace triumph, even though it registers the subservience of Christian nations to the great Moslem hierarchy.

On the "rights of the total abstainer" Miss Willard's views are summed up thus: "This is our position: that the crown of creation so far as we know, is the dome-like head carried on human shoulders; that this is the universe in miniature, and the nearest to God of anything of which we are aware; that forth from it has come all that makes the earth different from a den of beasts, and that any material sold or used which produces its deterioration beyond what any other material does or can shall not be made or sold under the guarantees and safeguards of the State."

ONE STANDARD OF PURITY.

No good can come of legalizing the violation of two laws of God—first, thou shalt not commit adultery; second, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Whatever degrades the women of India puts the stamp of deterioration upon all women. To this it will be replied that they have degraded themselves, and the means proposed are only to mitigate the consequences; but it makes all the difference in the world to us whether their degradation came about through any forces that we have set in motion. By parity of reasoning we might say the saloon is here, and here it will remain; let us do all we can to make it less dangerous to the people. But this is not the point; our attitude toward the saloon, first, last and always, is an attitude of utter hostility, and it makes all the difference in the world to us whether its presence among us is in spite of our protest and work, or whether we have taken measures that render its continuance probable. Besides this, we must remember that, although military officers may not think so, the moral contamination of the future husbands and fathers of England is a calamity immeasurably greater than their physical deterioration. The foundation and the keystone in the arch of heathenism is the sacrifice of woman's purity on the altar of man's sensuality, and if there is one monstrous thing which above another represents the anti-Christ, it is that fact. In oriental countries women are helpless in the hands of men, as they have been through the dark centuries, and the depths of degradation to which this utter dependence has reduced them are beyond all power of western comprehension. The English law in the Straits Settlements is said to be "for the protection of Chinese girls"; none are allowed to register as prostitutes except of "their own free will," and "with the consent of their mothers." But women physicians among the missionaries testify that they have treated little Chinese girls, four and five years of age, who had been bought in North China and were taken south to be raised for vile purposes, and who, when they were made to register, would never dare to say the woman with which each one was living was not her "mother." As for "her own free will," none of these poor creatures ever had a free will, or ever will have. That is the protection that England affords to Chinese girls. It is well-known that the moral tone of army life is very low in Oriental countries, and to suppose that men who would frame such a law as I have just described would ever subject their soldiers to an examination because they had visited these women seems to expert physicians whom I have consulted to be out of the question.