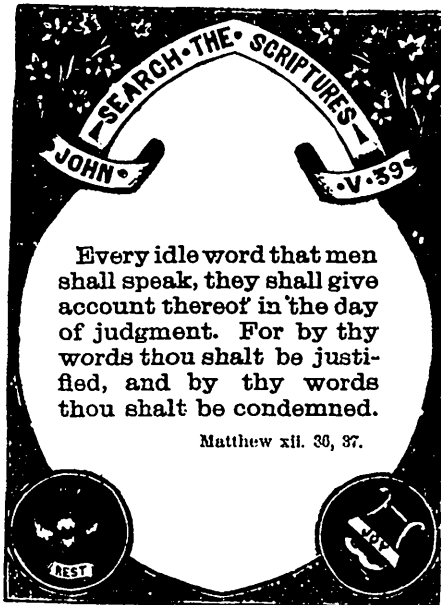


Our Mission · Union.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1884.

NO. 4.



Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Matthew xii. 36, 37.

Work Among the Prisons. No. 3.

THE BLUE RIBBON:

SOME months ago we had a blue ribbon meeting, and we were even surprised at the interest evinced. Of course we knew that if it had not been for the wretched drink, the institution would never have been built, as nearly all the inmates owe their unfortunate position to its use. But the little bit of blue seems to have a peculiar attraction, and the anxiety to possess it was very remarkable. Many pleasing incidents have arisen out of the work, especially in the cases of married women who have energetically striven, and nearly always with success, to get their husbands to don the ribbon also. One of these husbands in a country village in Eastern Ontario, joyously writes word that since he took the blue, he can count near one hundred blue ribbons in his village, where there was none before. Who would have expected such results from the giving of a bit of blue to a female prisoner in the Reformatory? One incident has peculiar interest. The woman was a French Canadian, and seemed greatly interested in the scene. Afterwards, she informed me

that she had written to her husband, who was confined in the Penitentiary at Kingston, telling him about it, and asking him to take it also. He replied, expressing his willingness. Then she made the rather astounding request to the writer that he should go down there and put it on him! I told her that it was not very likely that I should be able to do so, but that she might occasionally mention it, and—if circumstances favored—it might be possible. It was impossible not to be moved by the poor woman's earnestness and anxiety for her husband. The result was that every Sunday morning, a pleading face would present itself, and I would be reminded in her broken English, of her desire.

Some way I could not get out of my mind her request, and a fortnight ago, having to make a journey eastward, it struck me that by leaving on a night train, instead of the day train, as I had intended, I could actually gain a half-day in Kingston. So soon as thought of, it was determined, and when I told the wife that I found I could do what she so much wished, I was again surprised by her quickly saying with great confidence, "O, yes! I knew you would go, because I have been praying for it." How strangely we are led! I saw the husband, found him to be an intelligent, good-tempered Frenchman, sincerely sorry about his past life, and especially so, as not only was he himself, but also his wife had been involved in the consequences of his faults. Not only did he take the bit of blue; but, finding his mind in an anxious state, I showed him that he could never hope to stand in his own strength: that he would be still on the Devil's side, and that his only hope was by crossing over to God's side. I was enabled to show him that it was only a step to Jesus. I believe that when I left him, he felt that he had taken the great step from Death to life. Hallelujah! what a Saviour!

W. H. H.

OUR WATCHWORDS.

Behold I come quickly; blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.