

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

(MRS. MAY R. THORNLEY, London).

We sat together in the cheery "home room" of the house, the elderly and successful man of business, whom his townsmen delight to honor; his grey-haired, yet impulsive wife, and I, the Convention guest, drifted into this kindly refuge by a local billeting committee. I had listened, sympathetically, to the reasons why my host and hostess hated the liquor traffic, had heard from them life-stories of neighbors and friends that—the bitter pity of it all—could be duplicated in every city, town and village of this Province. I had felt, as I always do at such times, a deepening abhorrence of a business that grows only as it feeds on physical and moral decay, and an inner cry, "How long, oh Lord; how long!" had gone up. Then I hastened to express that hope of the "complete extinction of the liquor traffic," as our pledge puts it, that animates the heart of every white ribboner.

But my hostess impetuously answered, "I don't believe it. Look at the millions of capital in it. See the numbers of people engaged in it, or connected with it. Remember the social and political hold it has!—you will *never* overthrow it!" Before I could reply, the voice of the husband made reverent answer, in words the sum of which were, "*wife, you have forgotten God!*"

On the 20th of this month, the great Brooklyn Divine, Lyman Abbot, preached from the text, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," Phil. iv, 13. The printed report of it was entitled "We can," and here are two or three sentences from it:

"The most common excuse which men give to their conscience is, 'I cannot.' The most common answer to the ideals which God puts before the human race is, 'This is impracticable.'"

"Now this almost universal excuse leaves God out of account. Paul brings Him into account. He says, 'I can do all things *through Christ* which strengtheneth me.' And you and I are responsible, not merely to do the things that *we* can do, but to do the things that *we and God can do together*."

Sisters, this is the bed rock that our feet must reach, if we are to stand immovable while the currents of popular favor or disfavor surge about us. We have settled it in our inmost beings that our God "must reign from the river to the ends of the earth"; that, "for this purpose the Son of Man was made manifest, that he might destroy the works of the devil." We