

LOST DAYS.

The lost days of my life until to-day,
What were they, could I see them on the street,
Lie as they fell? would they be ears of wheat
Sown once for food, but trodden into clay?
Or golden coins squandered, and still to pay?
Or drops of blood dabbling the guilty feet?
Or such spilt waters as in dreams must cheat
The undying throats of Hell, at first alway?

I do not see them here, but after death
God knows I know the faces I shall see,
Each one a murdered self with low last breath,
"I am thyself—what hast thou done to me?"
"And I—and I—thyself" (he! each one saith),
"And thou thyself to all eternity."
From Messrs. Ellis & Elvey's Dante's "Inferno."

QUEBEC W.C.T.U.

The Provincial Union meet at Danville.

Stirring words from earnest hearts.

The members encouraged to work, and hope and pray.

The annual meeting of the Province of Quebec W.C.T.U. was held in the Congregational Church, Danville, on Tuesday, October 24th. The president of the society, Mrs. J. G. Sanderson, occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. Middleton, Quebec; Mrs. S. W. Lister, Knowlton; Mrs. R. W. McLachlan, Montreal; Miss S. E. Bliss, Compton; Mrs. S. P. Leet, Montreal; Mrs. E. P. Stevens, Knowlton; Mrs. D. Morrison, Ormstown; Mrs. J. A. Tomkins, Granby; Miss Barber, Montreal; Mrs. J. Dickson, Trenholme; Mrs. Stobo, Quebec; Mrs. G. E. McIndoe, Granby; Mrs. Metcalfe, Thurso; Mrs. Ure, Montreal; Mrs. Nunn, Coaticook; Mrs. J. Ewing, Richmond.

The convention was opened by devotional exercises led by Miss Barber, committees on credentials, plan of work, resolutions, finance and courtesies all met.

Mrs. Sanderson presented the report of the committee of conference with influential bodies. It showed that much work had been done this year in connection with the anti-tobacco petition, and the presentation thereof to the Quebec Legislature. Correspondence had taken place with the Provincial Legislature, the Quebec and Montreal Presbyteries, the Protestant Ministerial Association, the Methodist Association of Montreal, the Royal Templars, and Good Templars, asking co-operation. His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau had also been asked, and had replied by sending the following petition to the Legislature.

CARDINAL TASCHEREAU AIDS.

The Petition of His Eminence Elzéar Alexandre Taschereau, Archbishop of Quebec, respectfully shoveth as follows:—

Whereas the Association, "The Woman's Christian Temperance Union," has presented a petition praying for a law to prevent the sale or use of tobacco, or of opium, to and by minors.

Wherefore, your petitioner urgently begs Your Honorable House to pass such a law as demanded by those ladies.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

E. A. CARDINAL TASCHEREAU.

Quebec, Feb. 21, 1893.

It was suggested that the Committee on resolutions place on record the appreciation of the union of the sympathy shown by so many with the attempt to build a wall of legal enactment between the youth of our land and the tobacco habit.

The department of Heredity also reported showing that considerable work had been done in this respect during the year, and acknowledging the valuable work done by Dr. Minnie Leavitt, of Stanstead. It also contained an interesting report of work done amongst the lumbermen, and an encouraging Sunday School report.

Mrs. Ure presented the influencing of the press report as follows:—

' Mightiest of the mighty means,
On which the arm of progress leans.'

Ours is not only to rate it at its true value, but so to use it that the cause of all that is pure and good will be advanced through its agency. This is best done through the newspaper. Professionally official organs are invaluable, but their circulation is confined mainly to those already interested in the cause advocated,

while the newspaper goes into every home. The reports of the county presidents show that in nine counties there are press superintendents. All reported that they contributed temperance articles to local papers, sent items of W.C.T.U. news to the "Woman's Journal," "Witness," "Gazette," and "Star." These papers are always willing to insert temperance news. There is comfort in the thought that the tone of the press generally has undergone a marked change for the better in regard to temperance matters, and that the higher class of papers and magazines, especially those dealing with the great social and scientific problems of the day, are giving serious attention to what has been called the burning question of alcoholism.

Mrs. C. O. Miller, of Birchton, conducted the devotional hour.

After devotional exercises by Mrs. Metcalfe, Thurso, came

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Sanderson said:—Dear sisters and friends,—The beautiful motto chosen for the official call this year is very suggestive: "Take heed to the ministry that thou hast received in the Lord that thou fulfil it." Have we been accustomed to so regard the work undertaken by us? Have we thought of it as a service received directly from the Lord? That he knows the name of each member, and that the record of the year's work lies before him in perfect detail? We are sure that every spoken and unspoken prayer, every word or act done in the noble endeavor to fulfil this ministry has been noted and approved by him.

But there are many blank spaces in the record. Sometimes, because of the multiplicity of other engagements, we forget the service received from him. May we never have to say to our Master, while thy servant was busy here and there, thy enemy, which thou hadst devoted to destruction, escaped out of my hand.

Perhaps some will say, I am only a private member. I have no ministry. Take heed that thou fulfil it, by regular attendance at the meetings of your Union—by entering with cheerful readiness into every plan for its increased usefulness—by making it your duty to become acquainted with department work, through the annual report and "Woman's Journal," that you may be able to co-operate with the local and provincial superintendents. Some departments may seem more important than others, but they are all needed. If it is incumbent upon us to provide for the physical and mental needs of our children, it is still more necessary that we protect them.

We need righteous laws in reference to alcohol, narcotics, and social purity, and must do our part towards securing their enactment by the use of the franchise or petitions. Let us take heed to the ministry begun last year for our sisters in heathen lands. The letters of our temperance missionaries, Leavitt, Ackerman and West, reveal a condition of things that are perfectly appalling in connection with the sale of alcoholic drinks. Two missionaries and 60,000 gallons of rum is about the average proportion in which the work of Christ and the work of Satan is represented commercially in our trade relations with uncivilized nations.

WORK IN INDIA

The recent letters of Mrs. Andrews and Dr. Bushnell are of especial interest, showing the cruel bondage in which the women of India are held, by what is known as the C. D. Act. Lack of time prevents telling the story here. You will find it in the 'Union Signal.' If the work of the Union is to become far-reaching in its influence, close attention must be given to county and provincial conventions. Their value as an educating and stimulating force can hardly be overestimated. They are the fountain-head from which comes the enthusiasm which inspires a great enterprise—the Corliss engine which runs the great and varied machinery of the movement. That they are, as a rule, more difficult to sustain than the conventions of others societies, we sorrowfully admit, which only prove that few people, comparatively, are interested in the over-throw of the liquor traffic. We are but a voice in the wilderness of interest that occupy people's minds, crying, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord.' Instead of fewer meetings we need more.

Let us be loyal to this great ministry received in the Lord. 'There are many good things that we could do, but it is

for this work that he has called us, and no other service can be substituted for it, however vast its importance, or promising in its results.'

That our politicians are still blinded by the license fees and excise duties to the evils of the liquor traffic, is seen by the substitutes they offer us in lieu of prohibition—commissions and plebiscites—but we are too nearly grown up to mistake stones for bread, and shall not be turned aside from our purpose by any flag of truce. God makes no compromise with this sin, whether in the form of the four percent beer or pure liquor, neither by license, high or low.

This battle against this evil is not ours, but God's; 121 times in his Word he speaks against intoxicating drink with warning; 71 times with warning and reproof; 12 times it is pronounced poisonous and venomous, and five times he totally prohibits it. The indignation we feel at the cruelty and crime it causes all over the world, is but a faint reflection of his own.

We have reached the tenth mile-stone of our journey as a Provincial Union, and feel it to be great privilege to set up our banners in a county unpolluted by the open sale of alcoholic poison. This is a forest—of the grapes from the cluster, in which the whole nation shall share when we have taken full possession of the Promised Land. Some of Caleb's and Joshua's descendants are still living, and they have fought and conquered the sons of Anak in Richmond County. We are glad that Brome County has some of the lineal descendants within her borders, and that they put Ahiman Sheshal and Talmal to flight last June. It was a disappointment that Mr. Cook's Anti-Tobacco Bill, in which we felt so much interest, was killed in the Senate after it had passed its third reading in the Legislature. We will send in our petition again this year, and keep on sending until we succeed.

ENCOURAGING NEWS

Mr. R. W. McLachlan read the report of the corresponding secretary. It showed that there are seventy-nine unions in the Province, with a membership of 2,296. During the year six new unions had been formed, viz: Waterloo Y.; Bolton, Mansenville, Wakefield Y.; Beebe, Plain, and Ways Mills. There had been 119 removals by death, and 127 new members had joined during the year.

Mrs. J. P. Leet presented the financial statement showing receipts \$756.15, disbursements 721.15.

Miss Barber, superintendent of evangelistic work, social purity and mothers' meetings, was listened to with very much interest. The reports of work done in the counties has been most encouraging, special interest was felt in the work in Montreal in connection with the Sheltering Home, in which, during the year, there had been 347 admissions, 316 of these being women and girls and 31 children; 24 of these have been maternity cases, most of whom have been servants. Seventy times have the doors been opened to receive discharged prisoners, girls from the street and from the hospital who had been discharged before they were able to work. Forty-seven have been passed on to other institutions, 91 have had situations obtained for them, a few had been sent to England, and 103 had left to go to situations or to return to friends. Evangelistic services are held in the Home three or four evenings in the week and a Bible-class on Sunday afternoons. The Evangelistic Hall and Reading Room for girls, on St. Catherine street, now in its eighth year, continues to prove a blessing to the girls who frequent the rooms. During the winter a training class was held for young Christian workers, also a weekly workers' prayer meeting. A circle of King's Daughters has been organized called the 'What we can Circle,' with the motto, 'What we thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.' All the members sign the temperance and purity pledges. A weekly Bible-class is held. Monthly socials and the industrial and educational classes, have been largely attended this year 3,257 books have been taken from the girl's free library. The Woman's Industrial Exchange has, as usual, members from all parts of the Dominion, and has helped many a weary bread-winner over some of the hard places in life. The Bible woman, under a visiting committee, has made 3,129 visits among the poor, sick and intemperate, has distributed 4,530 tracts and papers and held 38 deeply interesting cottage meetings.

THE VISITORS WELCOMED

The evening session was crowded.

On the platform were Mrs. (Rev. J. D.) Sanderson, provincial president, in the chair, the Mayor of Danville, Mr. G. K. Foster, the Rev. J. D. Sanderson, pastor of the Congregational Church; the Rev. Mr. Gregory, of the Advent Church; the Rev. Mr. Henderson, of the Methodist Church; Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Gibson, of Danville; Mrs. Foster, Knowlton; Mrs. McIndoe, of Granby; Mrs. Leet, Mrs. R. W. McLachlan, secretary, and Miss Barber, Montreal.

The Mayor of Danville, Mr. G. K. Foster, on behalf of the citizens, extended the convention a cordial welcome. He hoped that they would go away feeling that they had accomplished some good.

Several short addresses were given amongst them being one by Rev. Henderson of the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Joseph Gibson gave the address of welcome. They were, she said, a union of women bound by one common tie to protect all they held dear from a common enemy, and going forward in the strength of Christ they should have no thought of discouragement. She laid special stress on the importance of these conventions in forming public opinion. Their great aim in view was total prohibition. They had proved in Richmond County that the good old Dunkin Act could be enforced, and if it could be enforced in a county why not in a nation? Yet many people present could remember that when the first petition on behalf of temperance was drafted in Danville only nine men were found brave enough to sign it. At two different times strong efforts had been made to repeal the act, and it still required strong persistent effort to enforce it. But they knew where to get strength for their needs.

Another point of the gravest importance was the education of the children. If they had been able to accomplish what they had with so little training what might they not expect from those growing up under our better methods of temperance instruction.

To the women she specially urged that they go on as did Nehemiah of old, with one hand building up the wall of strong temperance sentiment around our children and with the other defending them from strong drink and impurity, the while making their cry to God, who has said, 'Have I not commanded thee, be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.'

Miss McFadden of Point St. Charles, dwelling on the importance of the meetings, said:—

Those who were enjoying it for the first time were beginning already to realize what they had lost and regret in the wail of 'Glory McWkirk.' 'Such lots of good times in the world, and I ain't to 'em.' In touching upon their working forces, Miss McFadden paid a strong tribute to that great educator of public opinion, that greatest single force in society to-day, the public press! 'As a man readeth in his newspaper so he is,' was one of Miss Willard's concise sayings, and after listening to the report of the Superintendent of Press Work, they could not fail to see how necessary it was that this great power be used more than ever before to bring the principles for which they were contending more directly before the public. But there was a force to be sought by them, more powerful than the natural growth of public sentiment, and their success would be just in proportion to their measure of faith and obedience to the will of God.

The meeting then adjourned till the Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

On the union re-assembling on Wednesday, one of the first acts was to secure a room in the Royal Victoria Hospital, to be known as the Elizabeth Middleton room, in perpetual memory of the revered honorary president of the Union. This course was adopted in preference to the placing of a tablet in the Willard Hall of the Temperance Temple, Chicago.

Miss Barber drew attention to a letter from a Montreal newspaper containing a sad warning to young girls in the city from one of themselves, not yet twenty years of age. Two years ago, young, fresh, and innocent, she had entered the office of a respected Montreal business man, as a type-writer. Press of business was made the pretext for enticing her back to the office at night, and at length he accomplished her ruin.