

Yes, work on.

"Labor is health 'tis the still water faileth,  
Idleness ever despaireth, bewaileth,  
Keep the watch wound, the dark rust assaileth,  
Play the sweet keys, wouldest thou  
Keep them in tune."

MARY SCOTT, Oct. 1886.

## THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH BAND OF HOPE WORK.

MISS SKINNER, TORONTO.

It is needless to explain to a W. C. T. U. audience what is meant by Bands of Hope. I might also suppose that it would be superfluous to claim that they are a necessity, but because of a little personal experience with human nature, having lately met with those who belittled our work, even while occasionally helping us, I feel that it will be beneficial to think of some of the reasons why a Band of Hope is needed in every part of the world where there are children.

Inasmuch as 1 oz. of prevention is better than a pound of cure, I Band of Hope to train the children never to acquire the habit of using alcoholic liquors is better than 12 organizations to try and reform them after they have become drunkards. One of our workers, a good Methodist brother, went to hear Gen. Booth at the S. A. Temple about two weeks ago. Having heard the marvellous testimony of 2 or 3 converted drunkards, his soul was stirred and on the way home in company with one whose whole heart is in the children's work, he exclaimed! "When I hear of what the Lord does for such men as these, I feel that all other work is insignificant, the Band of Hope fades away, and I believe that this work of which we have heard to-night is the most important." The answer of our sister was, "I think it is grand to know that the Lord can and does save the drunkard, but while listening to those changed men to-night and realizing the depths to which they had sunk, and shame and regretful sorrow which must ever be theirs, my heart thrilled with joy to think that the Lord has called me to show to His little ones the evils of the intoxicating cup before they have lifted it to their lips. While all need to experience the power of God in their own hearts yet, if faithful to the lessons learned with us, they will never need to be saved from this habit which binds as a strong iron chain and sinks a man below the level of the brute creation." Then, I believe that there is not a more effective way than this of bringing about Prohibition; when our boys are men they will be the councillors, the Members of Parliament, the Senators and the executive officers, and if our work is well done there will not be any desire to mutilate the Temperance Acts nor a lack of effectiveness in carrying out the law. When I reach this thought the wings of my imagination unfold, and while they bear me away into the realms of an ideal future—I feel like exclaiming as I fly, "There's a good time coming by and bye.

Then if this work is so important who shall commence it in the unworked districts, who shall help to carry it on, and how shall it be done?

Dear sisters whilst our brothers cannot shirk their responsibility in this matter, these are serious questions for us to whom God has given a more special love to children, a greater stock of patience with their waywardness and also more capability of presenting thoughts and facts to them in a digestible form than He has given to many of our brothers. The best method of conducting a Band of Hope is that which is best suited to the place and to the circumstances