

away to Argentina or other South American places—hundreds of them—saved them for a life worse than death.

Ladies, are not we women those who, directly or indirectly, suffer most from this evil? Is not this traffic, as long as it exists, as a blow in the face of every gentlewoman? Ought we not all to work for a higher moral standard—you in your country, we in ours? I think this is the best international labour possible, and I thank the International Council of Women for gathering us together and helping us to fight for all that is good and pure and noble.

### WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC IN ITALY.

MME. TURIN.

At the sitting of the I. C. W. in Geneva in September, 1908, we presented an extensive paper to Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix, the President of the Permanent Committee against the White Slave Traffic and the "*Unité de Morale*." After the lapse of these few months we have no further facts to add.

The terrible disaster which befell Italy through the earthquake on the Sicilian and Calabrian coasts absorbed all social energy to the exclusion of any other matter.

Associated with this unique calamity is an accusation which concerns the white slave traffic, and which, therefore, we must mention without being at present in a position to prove or deny it authoritatively.

The "*Bulletin Abolitioniste*" (Organe central de la fédération Abolitioniste, Mois de Mars, Genève) mentions a despatch sent to the New York Evening Journal by Dr. Green, Treasurer of the Coal Company, of Kent, in which he states that the agents of the white slave traffic fell on the devastated regions of Sicily and Calabria and exported and sold hundreds of young girls to Buenos Ayres and other South American cities. The fact that Dr. Green was sent by his company to the seat of the disaster with means of relief, and that the truthfulness and trustworthiness of his character is said to be above suspicion, gives an overwhelming weight to the accusation. On the other hand, there is the fact that already on the third day martial law was proclaimed, and that the utter confusion and the difficulty of locomotion following the catastrophe must during those first three days have obstructed the purposes of the evildoers quite as much as the efforts of charity and humanity, even granting that a gang of white slave-holders could have been organized and ready to start at the moment of such an unforeseen catastrophe. Then there would be the question of the ships—to our knowledge in no wise prepared in the harbour, and the question of a large sum of ready money, without which such an exportation on a large scale could not have been accomplished.

Nevertheless the mere suspicion of so black a crime carried out unhindered is so horrible that surely the Italian Government ought not to let it rest there, but should have it properly enquired into.