

W. C. T. U. Notes.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union first organized in 1874.

AIM.—The protection of the home, the abolition of the liquor traffic and the triumph of Christ's Golden Rule in custom and in law.

Motto—For God and home and Native Land.

Badge—A knot of White Ribbon.

Watchword—Agitate, educate, organize.

Let us not therefore judge one another any more, but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. RM. 14:31.

Business meeting of the W. C. T. U. the last Monday of every month.

OFFICERS OF WOLFVILLE UNION.

President—Mrs. B. O. Davidson.

1st Vice President—Mrs. G. W. Miller

2nd Vice President—Mrs. J. G. Elderkin

Recording Sec'y—Mrs. Ernest Redden

Cor. Secretary—Mrs. W. O. Taylor

Treasurer—Mrs. H. Pineo.

SUPERINTENDENTS.

Evangelistic—Mrs. George Bishop

Parlor Meetings—Mrs. Young

Labrador Work—Mrs. Fielding

Red Cross and Lumbermen—Mrs. J. Vaughn

Press and Willard Hall—Mrs. M. P. Freeman.

White Ribbon Bulletin—Mrs. Hutchinson.

Temperance in Sabbath-schools—Mr. C. A. Patriquin.

Historical Review

A Woman's Temperance League was organized at Osborne by Mother Stewart in 1872—the first organization which merged into the W. C. T. U.

On the evening of Dec. 23, 1873, Dr. Dio Lewis lectured on temperance at Hillsboro, Ohio, and told of his mother's prayers against the liquor traffic. Seventy-five women banded themselves together and resolved with God's help to stand by each other and fight the liquor traffic. In describing that memorable meeting the next morning, Mother Thompson says: "Few comments were made at our house upon this new line of policy until after breakfast the next morning (the morning of the meeting,) when, just as we had gathered about the hearthstone, my daughter Mary said very gently, 'Mother, will you go to the meeting this morning?' Hesitatingly I replied: 'I don't know yet, what I shall do.' My

husband fully appreciating the responsibility of the moment, said: 'Children, let us leave your mother alone, for you know where she goes with all vexed questions,' and pointing to the old family Bible, left the room. The awful responsibility of the step that I must needs take was wonderfully relieved by the thought of the 'cloudy pillar' and the 'parted waters' of the past; hence, with confidence, I was about turning my eye of faith 'to the hills' from whence had come my help, when, in response to a gentle tap at the door, I met my dear Mary, who with her Bible in her hand and a fearful eye, said: 'Mother, I oppose the 146th Psalm and I believe it is for you.' She withdrew and I sat down to read the wonderful message from God. As I read, what I had so often read before, the spirit so strangely took of the things of God and showed me new meaning. I no longer hesitated, but, in the strength thus imparted, started to the scene of action. Upon entering the church, I was startled to find myself chosen their leader. The old Bible was taken down from the desk and the 146th Psalm read: Mrs. General McDowell, by request, led in prayer, and although she had never before heard her voice in public prayer, on this occasion the tongue of fire sat upon her and all were deeply affected. Mrs. Cowden, our Methodist minister's wife, was then requested to sing to a familiar air: "Give to the winds thy fears, Hope and be undismayed; God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears; He will lift up thy head." "And while thus engaged, the women (seventy-five in number) fell in line, two and two, and proceeded first to the drug store and then to the hotels and saloons." Thus began the great prayer crusade where— "Long ago in the snow and the sleet, Womanhood knelt in the pitiless street; Out of that agony, out of defeat, Blossomed a glory for you and for me."

"Saloonkeepers hired brass bands to follow them and drown their voices." In some places they were arrested, other places liquors were poured into the gutters before thousands of people. They read God's Word and offered prayer in the saloons, where thousands of men signed the pledge, while a few cursed the women. The spirit of the crusade spread rapidly into other states, and through these praying bands in Illinois, the immortal Frances Willard first heard her call to the great work.

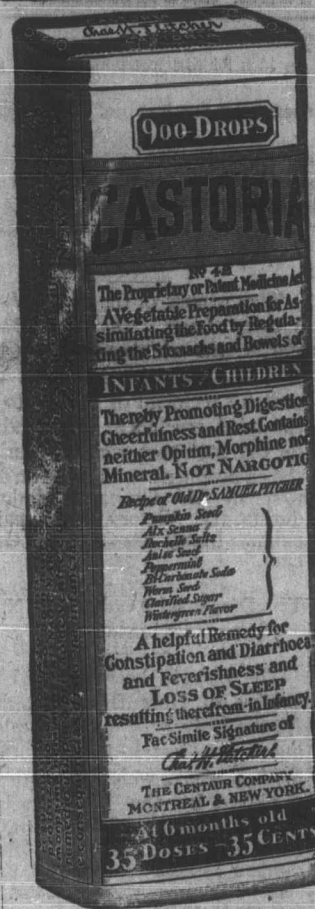
The women soon began to feel the need of a better organization. In August, 1874, at the first National Sunday School Assembly, held at Chautauqua, New York, plans for a national organization of women were discussed, and a convention was called to meet in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 18-20, 1874, when a society was organized to be known as the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The following resolution shows the spirit of the convention;

"Resolved: That, recognizing that our cause is, and will be, combated by mighty, determined and relentless forces, we will, trusting in Him who is the Prince of Peace, meet argument with argument, misjudgment with patience, denunciation with kindness, and all our difficulties and dangers with prayer."

Mrs. Annie Wittenmeyer, of Philadelphia, was chosen president of this convention, and Miss Frances Willard, of Chicago, corresponding secretary.

Since then the Women's Christian Temperance Union has spread to every quarter of the globe, and is the largest society composed of and conducted by women, which has ever existed.



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