

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

By Miss Esther Mayer, Point St. Charles.

Madam President, Officers and Delegates :

The very pleasing duty devolves upon me, to bid you welcome to Point St. Charles, and this I do most heartily, all the more so, in that the pleasure of being able to do it has been deferred for twelve months, the Danville Union having sent in their invitation a little earlier than we did last year, so gaining the privilege of having the Convention held there. I do not know, however, but it was just as well for us that we have been obliged to wait ; perhaps we are somewhat presumptuous in wishing to have you with us even now, as we are rather inexperienced in this line, having as a Union scarcely attained our third birthday. We trust, however, that in anything which may seem to be amiss in our arrangements you will of your kindness attribute it to our lack of experience.

For this reason, with many others, we are delighted to have the opportunity of meeting you, not only that we may by pleasant social intercourse with each other become better acquainted, but also that we shall by the words of wisdom that shall fall from your lips, and to which we will give earnest heed, gain greater knowledge for the future how better to employ our energies for the suppression of that evil against which we are all banded.

We have looked forward with great eagerness to this meeting, and we cherish the hope that its results may be enduring and far-reaching.

Every Women's Christian Temperance Union feels that the crusade upon which it has entered—the warring against intemperance and its accompanying evils—is a great and noble mission. To each of you it is well-known, those of you in particular who have come from counties in which a prohibitory law has been gained, and who are still to see to its enforcement—that the work is not an easy task. There are discouragements and difficulties which beset us on every side. Here in this fair city, so beautifully endowed by nature, and of which as citizens we are justly proud, a pall so dark envelops us that frequently we nearly despair of ever seeing it raised. Almost, it seems as though it would be easier to stem the current of the great river that skirts our shores, than to prevent the sale of intoxicants in our midst.

Yet we are assured that our cause is a righteous one, and although we may not see that we accomplish very much, still we have faith to believe that some day—perhaps we may not all behold it—prohibition shall govern the entire land.

For this end we labor, and are determined, no matter what the