

1898

HAMILTON.

Second Annual Report of the W.C.T.U., Hamilton Branch.

Another year has gone with its seed sown, and in many instances fruit gathered; and it is with thankful hearts that we present to you our second annual report. In looking back over the past year, we can fully realize the Guiding hand of God in our work, and the abundant answers to earnest prayer; for without the consciousness of the approval and direct guidance of God, we should have failed, disheartened by the smallness of our number; for we seem so small a band of workers to compete against the gigantic strength of the enemy, and to tide the current of prejudice and established customs; but when we remember that the work is not ours, that it is in the hands of a higher power, that we are but servants, doing the will and directed by the Master, we are reassured, yes! by his own words, "Be not weary in well doing, for ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

We understand, more and more, the importance of the work we have undertaken, and the immense amount of difficulties we have to surmount. Our hearts are saddened and filled with grief oftentimes, over the repeated failures of our efforts, for those who apparently, and we believe sincerely, desire to change their life for a better one, but who seem to be under the influence of a tyrant, who binds them with almost unbreakable chains; but all is not dark, there is a silver lining always to the densest cloud, and we can see some of the exertion put forth crowned with success; many of our weak, unfortunate sisters have been enabled to see the bitter darkness of the road they were taking and the unfathomableness of the abyss on the edge of which their tottering feet were lingering, and have been brought by the aid of Divine Love and Compassion to the full light of sins forgiven and peace awarded.

The work of the Union has also included the clothing and maintenance of those families, addicted to drinking, as far as it was completed, with the funds of the Union, and the self independence of those requiring help.

The next branch of our work has well repaid all the labor and anxiety connected with it; I speak of the dining rooms. We can hardly estimate the vast amount of good that has emanated from having a home for young men, otherwise exposed to the temptation and allurements of pleasure and vice.

Our hearts have been gladdened by the cordial thanks of parents from a distance, who express themselves as thankful that their sons have the opportunity of such a home, surrounded by Christian influence. The rooms are more than self supporting and we hope this winter that they will be able to clear themselves from the small indebtedness remaining, that was incurred from opening of same, and anticipate enlarging, as we have had to refuse many, on account of no ac-