

After the adjournment the delegates were invited into the chapel, where an excellent dinner was served by the ladies of the Central Church.

#### SECOND DAY.

The committee on credentials reported 175 delegates present.

#### THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The annual report of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Caroline B. Buell, of Connecticut, showed more rapid progress in temperance work during the past year than ever before in the history of this country. The successive steps of the various organizations for temperance work were mentioned, concluding with some details of the work of W. C. T. U. for the year 1883. An eloquent tribute was paid to the labors of Miss Willard, and at each mention of her name the delegates warmly applauded. Illinois leads the states in point of membership, having 7,849 members, while Ohio comes second. Iowa has the largest number of counties organized. Mrs. Buell referred briefly to the question of education, that is temperance education, and reported that the work among children had been carried forward unflaggingly during the year. In the publication department, also, there was much progress, work during the past year covering leaflets and other publications for use in foreign countries, as well as the usual home publications. The report closed with a number of suggestions, among which were the following: Reorganization of the whole plan of juvenile work; more accurate reports from local unions, especially quarterly statements from the latter to the state organizations; the adoption of a resolution providing for the holding of state conventions not less than one month before the national convention.

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

showed the total amount received from 1876 to 1883 to be \$15,214.01, and the balance on hand \$919 17, being an increase of \$400 since last year.

#### THE UNION SIGNAL.

The report of the committee in charge of the *Union Signal* showed the paper to be in a prosperous condition. The corporation has a considerable debt hanging over it, and stock will be sold to raise the necessary funds.

The delegation from Iowa presented a beautiful basket of flowers to Mrs. Merrick, of New Orleans, and the delegation from Ohio made a similar present to John B. Finch, the Nebraska temperance advocate.

At the beginning of the afternoon session, Mrs. Emma Obenauer made a report of the

#### WORK AMONG GERMANS.

She said that contrary to the usual impression it was possible to induce the German to give up his beer. She had never found a total abstainer among the Germans, who was not also a Christian, although there were doubtless exceptions to this general rule.

Mrs. Ellen M. Watson, of Pennsylvania, reported upon her labors in behalf of securing a day for temperance in the

#### WEEK OF PRAYER.

She read the programme for the week of prayer in 1884, no mention being made in it of the subject of temperance. Miss Willard suggested that it might come in under the head of prayers for nations. Later it was stated, however, that the United Presbyterian general assembly had set apart the second Tuesday in January, and that day was adopted by the convention by a rising vote.

#### FRIENDLY GREETINGS.

The fraternal delegates from Canada were then introduced and cordially welcomed by Miss Willard, the delegates rising to their feet. Mrs. Youmans, president of the Canadian union, responded briefly in a happy vein. She said she had loved the stars and stripes ever since the stain of human slavery had been washed out of them, and she should love it still more when the blot of the legalized liquor traffic was washed out. She believed the time would soon come, because the women were engaged in the work, and she noticed that the women had to do all the real good washing of the world. At the conclusion of these exercises the vast congregation rose and joined in singing *America* and *God Save the Queen*, to the well-known air adapted to the words of both.

#### RAILWAY WORK.

Miss Jennie E. Smith, of Maryland, superintendent of the work among railway employees, reported that while the work was moving somewhat slowly she believed the progress made was sure and lasting. This branch of the temperance work was commenced in an old car belonging to the Baltimore and Ohio railway some years ago, and has resulted in the formation of several very efficient organizations. Miss Smith stated that her work extended to street-car men, and she also claimed the policemen. Detroit was the only city visited by her in which she had not taken a policeman by the hand, but she expected to make the acquaintance of some of them before she left the city.

#### POLICE STATIONS AND PRISONS.

The operations of the department of prisons and police stations were briefly detailed by Mrs. J. K. Barney. She said that, of course, not all prisoners who signed the temperance pledge kept it but many of them did. Temperance workers must be satisfied to hope that the pledge would be kept, and if it were broken other opportunities for working with the men might be secured. In view of the fact that Detroit is engaged in erecting

a new police station, Mrs. Barney was asked what steps should be taken to secure the services of a matron. She thought a petition should be presented to the common council. A lady from Chicago explained that in that city the appointment of a matron was secured by applying to the mayor and superintendent of police, the ladies at first paying the salary. Now the matron had become indispensable and the city provided her salary.

#### STATISTICS.

The report of Mrs. McCloud, of Maryland, on relative statistics of the liquor traffic was read by the secretary. Statistics of the liquor tax, the cost of maintaining prisons and workhouses, etc., in some of the more populous states were read, the general deduction being made that three-fourths of the pauperism and crime of the country were the direct outgrowth of the liquor traffic.

#### UNFERMENTED WINE.

Miss Mary A. West, of Illinois, reported on the subject of unfermented wine, recommending that in churches where fermented wine is used members of the union eat the bread at the communion table and let the wine alone.

#### LEGISLATION.

Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, of Clinton, Ohio, explained some points about her report as superintendent of the department of legislation, answering such questions as were propounded by the delegates. Mrs. Foster explained that the aims of the department of legislation were the following: 1. An intellectual knowledge of the province and scope of civil government. 2. A specific understanding of existing legislation concerning the liquor crime. 3. A clear comprehension of desirable and attainable ends and methods along the line.

In regard to existing legislation on the liquor traffic Mrs. Foster says in her report: "A marked feature in the legislation of the last year has been a popular demand for so called high license laws. The term is indefinite, the fees ranging all the way from \$50 to \$1,000 per annum. With the theory that these laws are right in principle or beneficent in result the W. C. T. U. has no sympathy. We believe they do not decrease the aggregate amount of liquor sold, and that they put the sale under more dangerous conditions. We have carefully studied this question and find that these laws do not reach the standard of either conscience or expediency. Tax laws in operation in Michigan and Ohio are similar in moral principle and practical result. Our judgment of them is also adverse. We are accustomed to hear the taunt of being impracticable, of refusing a half loaf because a whole cannot be had; to which we reply, we do not refuse a half loaf, but we never ask for anything less than what we want, and that is the whole loaf of Prohibition. The very asking is educational, and we believe the desired end soonest attained that way. We bid our opponents remember that a fewer number of saloons does not necessarily imply a less amount of liquor sold. We believe the facts support our supposition. While absolute Prohibition is the only plan which meets our approval, we regard this high license craze as a symptom of healthy agitation in the public mind."

In the evening addresses were delivered by Mrs. White, of Penn., Mrs. Woodbridge, of Ohio, and Mrs. Youmans, of Canada.

#### THIRD DAY.—FORENOON SESSION.

#### THE LUMBERMEN.

W. F. Davis, of East Saginaw, a missionary worker in the lumber woods, gave some facts regarding lumberman's employees. He said there were 40,000 men in the lumber woods, whose spiritual and moral condition was truly deplorable. He warned the ladies present not to send their sons and brothers into the lumber woods. He thought the chief trouble was greed of gain and neglect on the part of employers. The report of

#### THE KITCHEN GARDEN

department was presented by Miss Mary C. McClees of Yonkers, N.Y. It is the aim of this department to enlist the efforts of the young ladies in teaching by object lessons the household arts to poor girls, with a view to ameliorating the conduct of life in their homes, present and future, and preparing them to earn their own living as skilled servants. Specific temperance work is also incorporated with these lessons.

#### FLOWER MISSION WORK.

The work of the flower mission under the superintendence of Miss Jennie Casseday was read by Mrs. Newman of Nebraska. Miss Casseday is an invalid, confined to her home in Louisville, but by means of the telephone and the mails she manages to direct a very important branch of the temperance work, both in her own city and throughout the country. In the various cities where the work of the flower mission is carried on, Miss Cassiday aims to introduce temperance literature and pledges in connection with it.

#### WORK AT FAIRS.

The work among state and county fairs was reported upon by Mrs. J. R. Nichols of Indiana. She said that the work, during the four months she had been in charge of it, had knocked at the doors of fairs in every state in the union. She advocated the passage of a law in each state forbidding the sale of liquors on fair grounds.