

WHAT THE W. C. T. U. HAS DONE

From Small Beginnings the Society Has Grown to Immense Proportions. TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF ACTIVE LIFE

Miss Frances Willard Recounts the Brilliant Achievements of the Progressive Society of which she is the Head— Prosperous in Hard Times.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 16.—Under the national banner, "For God and Home and Native Land," delegates representing every state in the union, and a following of thousands of wearers of the white ribbon assembled this morning in Music hall to open the Twenty-first annual convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance union.

The scene presented in the hall just before the convention was called to order was a most animated one. The hum of conversation increased as the hour set for the convention to be called to order drew near, until it seemed to assume the proportion of a mighty roar.

The decorations of the big auditorium were artistic and profuse, with yellow and white predominating. The wall which formed a background for the platform was a mass of yellow and white bunting. The white is the recognized color of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, and the yellow bears the same relation to the woman suffragists.

The balconies are draped in white and yellow. The upper one is intertwined with the red, white and blue. The upper post supports a state or superintendent's banner.

The convention was called to order a few minutes before 10 o'clock. Miss Willard tapped sharply on the table in front of her, and the assembly came to order.

"Seven raps for love, hope and gratitude," said Mrs. Willard. "You will notice that we are a little behind time, but you will get plenty as quickly as possible we will begin our opening exercises. I will ask Mother Thompson, Annie Stewart and Mrs. Monroe to read the crusade psalm responsively with you."

The three ladies named rose, while the psalm was read by the audience and verse by verse. The psalm was followed by the original crusade hymn, "Rock of Ages," by the entire convention, led by Mrs. Alice Harrison of Boston, national superintendent.

The organ pealed above the voice of the audience. There were probably 500 delegates present, and the hall was filled with spectators, with the exception of the upper gallery.

Rev. Frances Townsley of Nebraska next led the convention in prayer. She offered thanks for the twenty-first birthday of the Woman's Christian Temperance union movement, since guided and guarded by a voice strong as fatherhood, true as brotherhood and tender and loving as motherhood.

She referred touchingly to the death of Mrs. Mary A. Woodbridge, who died a month ago, and to the death of Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, who died a few days ago.

Following this came the reading and adoption of the minutes of the executive committee for two sessions. The appointment of a committee to arrange for the next convention during the larger part of the morning session.

After the singing of the hymn entitled "Welcome, Chieftain, Welcome!" Miss Willard stepped to the front of the platform and first address of the convention was given.

Miss Willard thanked the convention for the applause and then began the delivery of her annual address, a resume of which is as follows:

"The child of the crusade has lived out of mature womanhood. On December 23, 1873, the first prayer of the crusade was uttered, faithful the distance between Chicago and the drama. As if by magic similar processions began to move throughout the west.

It is in the field of prayer that the faithful faith and works the liquor traffic was banished from 250 towns and villages. We date our origin from that red letter day, set like another Christmas in the dear December to that day when the crusade was born.

In the bright summer following (August, 1874), at beautiful Chautauque, that summer camp which is the paradise of women, a committee of the crusade determined that the movement should be systematized, and put forth to their comrades everywhere a call to come to Cleveland in November and form a national society. Since we were organized twenty years ago the half-dozen state unions then organized have grown to fifty, and the single national union to over forty-nine states and provinces.

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Reasons Why an End Has Come to Its Transportation East.

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Ten minute reports were made by Mrs. Mary T. Hunt of the Young Woman's Christian Temperance union, by Mrs. H. L. Monroe, and by Mrs. H. E. Hammond. The Young Woman's Christian Temperance union had made a better showing in its annual report than in any year since it received this year than the last, which was a remarkable token of the vitality of the movement in a period of unequal financial depression.

WOMEN