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February 17, 1887.

## THREE WEEKS OF CAMPAIGNING,

FRANCES E. WILLARD.

EN ROUTE BALTIMORE, Md., to FREE- }  
HOLD, N. Y., February 7, 1887. }

DEAR UNION SIGNAL:—On starting out we had a delightful "over Sabbath" at Mrs. Swift's, in Allegheny. In 1863-4 I was a teacher in "Pittsburgh Female College," and a member of Christ M. E. Church. Had I been told in those days, when I used to walk down its "dim, religious aisles" with the long procession of young ladies, that one day its pastor would invite me to "occupy the pulpit" at the "morning sermon" hour, I would have disbelieved the bearer of tidings so preposterous. But the impossible is what happens in this transition age. Besides, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Cowles, was a student at Evanston in auld lang syne, and a friend of my brother Oliver. At night, the "U. P. Presbyterian" of Allegheny (which sings only Psalms), had invited me to speak on Social Purity. Everywhere the audiences that gather when this theme is to be taken, are only limited by the size of the building, and the collections are at least four times as large as have ever before been gathered. We dined with Mr. and Mrs. Will Moreland, whose home is so genial and congenial that we felt as if they were all old and trusty friends. One of the daughters is with Mrs. Mary B. Willard, at Berlin, and writes in terms of loving admiration about our former editor. Mrs. Swift gave us a charming reception of three or four hours' duration in her own pleasant parlors, where we met Mrs. Jos. D. Weeks, Mrs. Ellen M. Watson, and scores of white ribboners from all the country round about. Pennsylvania is doing a great work, and will carry off the banner of precedence again if Illinois does't look to her laurels.

At Philadelphia we were with Hannah Whitall Smith, and the World's W. C. T. U. was our theme, though in a household so fruitful of ideas, no one subject could become engrossing. We met at a breakfast there, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah W. Leeds, noble representatives of the Society of Friends, who are devoted to the suppression of impure literature, pictures, theatrical posters, the ballet, etc. Rev. and Mrs. Chas. G. Ames were also present, and we enjoyed a delightful interview with them. Of the meeting in Philadelphia, under the ever victorious leadership of Mrs. J. R. Jones, you have doubtless heard already.

We went to the headquarters of the Knights of Labor, and met Mr. Powderly and nearly all the members of the executive board. They are a noble looking set of men, bearing out the impression I received when I first saw their photographs in the album of Mrs. Rodgers, "Master Workman of District 24," Chicago. Mr. Powderly is very quiet, thoughtful, and steady-eyed. He read over our petition for the protection of women, and said, "Let me consult my brothers." In three minutes he came back, saying: "If you choose to send me ninety-two thousand copies, I will place them in the hands of as many labor assemblies, and call attention to them in my circular letter soon to go out." I said to him: "Although you are a Catholic, and I am a Methodist, I call you brother, believe in your noble purposes, and will pray God every day to guide you." We shook hands upon that; and I believe this man who stands so strongly for total abstinence, who will not tolerate tobacco, and who is a devout Christian according to his bringing up, has been ordained as the Moses of his people to bring labor out of the wilderness by the peaceful methods of co-operation, arbitration, and the ballot-box.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bryant, associated with Mr. Leitchman in editing the Knights of Labor paper, is an earnest and capable woman whom I had previously met at one of our state conventions, and who stands by every good cause to the utmost of her power. As we left the building she had us glance into a large room where a score of clerks were busy, and said there was another roomful upstairs. Deprecating strikes, and hating violence, I believe the leaders do all they can to steady the tremendous torrent of aroused purpose in the wage-workers, and are not to be blamed for excesses which they and we alike deplore.

We are to return to Philadelphia on Saturday, speaking in Association Hall at the W. C. T. U. anniversary,



and on Sunday night I am to address the women of the Knights of Labor in their own Hall, Mrs. Bryant working up the meeting.

Our second Sabbath was spent in Wilmington, Del., in the home of that devoted worker, Miss Madge Hillis. Here we met Mrs. Martindale, Miss Semple, Mrs. Bringhurst, and the leadership of the state generally, for we attended an executive committee meeting in the tasteful Headquarters. Mrs. Prof. Chester, of Newark, Del., is state superintendent of social Purity Work, and a petition is in circulation asking for better laws, concerning the success of which the ladies are sanguine. By the way, we had a meeting at Newark, Del., the seat of a state college, and rarely have I been better pleased than when the W. C. T. U. and Loyal Legion marched in procession to the platform as my right and left hand supporters.

Of our Washington visit there is so much to say that I dare not begin. Doubtless some of the many bright women whom Mrs. La Fetra so gently and so bravely leads, will "write it up." Aside from a public reception and public work, I shall long cherish the memory of such generous hospitality as was shown us in the spacious home of Senator and Mrs. Blair, whose guests Anna Gordon and I were throughout our visit; of a delicious hour among the pictures of the Corcoran Gallery, the strongest reminder I have had in later years of studies once engrossing; a visit to the National Museum; a quiet call, by appointment, upon that loyal Christian and total abstainer at the White House, Mrs. Cleveland; a breakfast with distinguished guests at Mrs. La Fetra's, and the pleasure of "receiving" with Mrs. Senator Blair on her first Monday "at home," this season. Between three and four hundred ladies and gentlemen called, many of them wives of Senators, among whom I was especially interested in Mrs. Edmunds, whose heart is deeply enlisted in the rescue branch of our Social Purity work. Mrs. Cutcheon of Michigan, whose husband championed the Scientific Instruction Bill, was another lady of marked interest to me; also Mrs. Senator Wilson of Iowa. I also met Mrs. Major Powell, wife of the great explorer, who shares in many of his expeditions; Mrs. Darwin James of Brooklyn, Rev. Dr. William Alvin Bartlett and scores of others were most interesting to me.

One of the pleasant surprises of the afternoon was meeting Mrs. Theodore Yates, formerly Miss Marion Wolcott of Milwaukee, the best and smartest girl in school, to catch up with whom in deportment, punctuality and scholarship, was my absorbing purpose when we were both students in Catharine Beecher's and Mary Mortimer's school there in 1857. My own dear Aunt Sarah (Miss Hill) was a professor there in those days, and the inspiration of her scholarship and character helped me to achieve this end, after a steadfast struggle. It meant much to me, this sisterly greeting of the gifted woman I had loved in other years.

I went to see Mrs. Hunt twice and she came to tea with us, her present domicile and office being but a few doors from Senator Blair's. She is in deep affliction but her indomitable spirit does not falter. With ten clerks (including a stenographer and type-writer) to execute her plans, she is making such a fight for the Blair Education Bill, as no other man or woman could, and in it all her basis of operations is the loyal, hard work of the W. C. T. U. The experience of last winter places her upon high vantage ground. She is esteemed and admired by Senators and Congressmen, irrespective of party, and one of the former, a Southern gentleman, expressed what seems to be the mind of all, when, after the triumphs of last winter, he said: "Mrs. Hunt has not uttered or done anything that I would criticise in my own wife or daughter." If the Bill passes it will be largely because of her wisdom and her work, so thinks the Senator who believes profoundly in the W. C. T. U. Dr. and Mrs. Jno. H. Newman were most kind to us all and are, and will be still more, strong towers of the W. C. T. U. Rev. Dr. Butler, founder of the Methodist Missions in India, is most hearty in his allegiance to our cause.

Hannah Whitall Smith's Bible Readings were, in the best sense, popular. She was urged to stay and hold others, the most elegant parlors in the city being open to her. Mrs. Barney charmed everybody. Dr. Naylor of Foundry Church, where our National Convention was held, declared, "If I could talk like that, madam, I would talk all the time." Never had the "defective, dependent and delinquent classes" a more winsome friend at court.

Mrs. Barnes was at her best in the young women's meeting, and Anna Gordon carried off the hearts of all the children to whom she spoke.

I advised our white ribboners at the capital to send next for Mrs. Henry, whose recent work in Philadelphia has won the favorable comment of the most conservative.

( To be continued. )