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W.C.T.U. Column. NON-PARTISAN WOMEN.

(Continued from last week.)
 The news of the action taken in 1884 at St. Louis, produced a profound sensation. Many women, many Unions, comprehending the injustice done, sorrowfully severed their relations to the National Union. Many local organizations abandoned their work altogether; many others, in a spirit of deep consecration to their work, resolved still to carry it on with all earnestness, but independently of State or National allegiance.

THE NEW NATIONAL BODY ORGANIZED.
 In the old Union the conflict between partisanship and non-partisanship raged long. Iowa, particularly, strong in its great non-partisan majority, labored unremittingly to induce a retracing by the National of the fatal step taken at St. Louis. Every year at National convention, the women of the state, and of many others as well, wrought together for an object whose success would have prevented the disruption of the great host of temperance women. In 1888, at the New York convention, Mrs. H. C. Campbell of Pennsylvania, introduced a resolution to amend the constitution by making the organization non-partisan and non-sectarian. But all effort was unavailing; and finally, after the National convention, held in Chicago, had for the sixth time passed a strong partisan resolution, and had, by an immense majority, voted down the proposed non-partisan amendment to the constitution, it was felt that the hour had come for the forming of a new national organization. Immediately after this convention, Nov. 13th, 1889, a meeting of non-partisan temperance women was held at the Palmer House, Chicago, and a provisional committee of seven members was chosen to lead on in the movement. This committee was Mrs. Ellen J. Phinney of Cleveland; Mrs. Ellen M. Watson, Pittsburg; Mrs. Harriet G. Walker, Minneapolis; Mrs. J. R. Webster, Monmouth, Ill.; Mrs. M. Bailey, Shenandoah, Ia.; Mrs. Florence C. Porter, Oldtown, Me.; Mrs. Harry White, Indiana, Pa. A call was soon issued summoning the non-partisan temperance women of the nation to meet at Music Hall, Cleveland, O., Jan. 22, 1890, to consider plans for effecting a national organization. In response to the call, delegates from 12 states and from the District of Columbia, assembled, and on the afternoon of the first day of the convention, the Non-Partisan National Union was formed, in accordance with a resolution offered by Mrs. Campbell of Pennsylvania, and unanimously adopted. Its name was chosen, its officers elected, its work defined, its constitution, completely guarding against the errors of the old union, was prepared with the utmost care, and as carefully considered and adopted. Five departments of work were formed, and amid the prayers and the rejoicings of an earnest body of women as the world ever saw, the new work was fully established.

Five years have passed since then, years of tireless activity. At the organization of our National union there were but two full-fledged non-partisan state organizations: Ohio, already nearly four years old, and Pennsylvania, which had been organized only five days, its convention having been held Jan. 16 and 17, 1890. Iowa had not yet severed its relation to the union, and must do this before she could become a part of the new. The Maine union was formed a few months later, in October, 1890. A little older is the Illinois union. The dates of organization in Vermont and in Minnesota we have failed to find. New York was organized in October, 1892, the organizing convention held in Marion, Missouri State union is our youngest, formed Nov. 1, 1894. We have several provisional state organizations, in Massachusetts, Connecticut, West Virginia, in Indiana, where we expect soon to form a state union, and in California. We have local unions in New Jersey, Virginia, Michigan, Alabama, the District of Columbia, Arizona and Nebraska. Thus our work stretches out over 21 states and territories.

The work has been a difficult one. Ceaseless and bitter opposition in some quarters, utter discouragement in others, and in still others an apathy as deep as Van Winkle's dreamless sleep, have presented unexampled difficulties. Yet they are disappearing. We are growing in many ways. We have grown together, and stand to-day a truly homogeneous body, fitly joined together in earnestness, in faith, and in deep love and sympathy. We have grown in intelligence, in depth of conviction, in courage. We know to-day what we have believed, and like Luther we are ready to say, "There I take my stand, I can do no otherwise. So help me God. Amen." We have grown in the adaptation of means to our end. Our five departments of work have increased to ten, but all touching directly on the temperance problem, as it touches the life of humanity in its varied aspects—intellectual, physical, moral, spiritual, social, industrial, remedial—it takes in all of temperance work, but only temperance work. "This one thing we do."

We have grown in the confidence of

the country. The Non-Partisan Union is acknowledged by our wisest, clearest-headed men and women to be right, and builded on the right foundation, and more and more is its aid sought in the solution of the great problems that face our nation. We have grown numerically. Our 10,000 members are not a feeble band, but mighty for many a great effort. And to this number, we hope to add great reinforcements. May large numbers of earnest women come to our help in all our glorious war.

The future is before us, radiant with promise. May we have grace and wisdom to achieve the noble results within our grasp.—Mrs. S. W. Ingham, in the Temperance Tribune.

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EDITOR OF THE GRAPHIC
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