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W.C.T.U. Initial Movement

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W. C. T. U. INITIAL MOVEMENT.

The following item appears as editorial in your columns of the issue of October 24th: 1894.

Bishop Walden, in his remarks to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union Convention last week, referred to the fact that, twenty years ago, he presided over the Crusaders' Convention, held in Cincinnati—the first meeting of the kind in the world, the initial movement of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The first State meeting of the women connected with the uprising on the temperance question, known as the Crusade, was held in the Town Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Columbus, February 24 and 25, 1874. Dio Lewis presided. I was present and participated. My wife, Mrs. McClellan Brown, had arranged for a general convention of temperance workers of the State of Ohio at that date, and had engaged the City Hall for two evenings, and also engaged the services of Rev. John Russell, of the Detroit (Michigan) Conference, to deliver the address on the evening of the 25th of February, intending to speak herself on the evening of the 24th. Dio Lewis, learning of Mrs. Brown's purpose, sought her, and found her at the Neil House, and requested to have her associate distinctively with this Convention the Crusaders. Mrs. Brown readily consented. But that the call might not be misunderstood by the Crusading women, who generally knew Mrs. Brown as chief of Good Templars and a member of the Prohibition party, it was agreed that Dio Lewis should issue a separate call for the Crusading women to assemble at the same date in Columbus as Mrs. Brown had arranged. See the Cincinnati *Enquirer* of February 18, 1874, which contains the call for the women; also interview of Mrs. Brown in New York *Tribune*.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* of February 25, 1874, reporting the Convention, says:

WOMAN'S WHISKY WAR.

STATE CONVENTION.

COLUMBUS, February 24, 1874—Morning session. Dio Lewis presiding. Mrs. Brown, of Alliance, spoke at some length of the unity this work was bringing about between members of different branches of the Church, and the grand opportunity offered in this movement to do a noble work for humanity.

At the afternoon session, the Committee on Permanent Organization reported. President, Mrs. H. C. McCabe; vice-presidents, Mrs. Eliza J. Thomson, Mother Stewart, etc. Dio Lewis requested both Mrs. Brown and myself to allow her name registered as general and field manager; but we thought that since Mrs. Brown was under the relations she held to the Good Templars, she had better remain unofficially related to this movement, while she promised and extended her fullest co-operation.

The interview with Mrs. Brown is given in the Cincinnati *Gazette* of February 25, 1874, as follows:

It is thought by friends of the temperance cause throughout the State that this meeting will have important bearing on the work in progress. It is hoped by it, most of all, to establish a uniform basis of operations, which may be adhered to by towns where the movement is going on, and be adopted by those beginning. The common meeting of workers in the various fields, and the interchange of experiences and congratulations, it is thought, will have a reviving effect.

There had been, up to this time, no woman's movement in any of the large cities. Delaware organized on the day before the Convention, and Mrs. Professor McCabe was honored with the presidency of the new movement. Neither Columbus nor Cincinnati women had as yet entered the war. Two months after the above, the meeting referred to in your editorial note was convened in Cincinnati. Bishop Walden was chosen chairman. You will find records to this effect in the city daily papers of April 23, 1874, and in the WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE of the following week. W. K. BROWN.

From Western Christian Advocate.

Prohibition party votes before 1884 was scarcely over 10,000: but in that year 150,626, 1888, 249,945. since which date but little progress. During 1894 and 95