

W. C. T. U. PETITION.  
Mr. Biggs brought down with him the following, headed "Petition of the Women's Christian Temperance Union," &c.:

The increasing and alarming frequency of assaults upon women, the frightful indignities to which even little girls are subject, and the corrupting of boys, have become the shame of our boasted civilization.

And believing that the statutes of Delaware do not meet the demands of that newly awakened public sentiment which requires better legal protection for womanhood and childhood.

Therefore we, the undersigned citizens of Wilmington, county of New Castle and State of Delaware, pray you to enact further provision for the protection of women and children.

Then follow ten yards of signatures.

The desired legislation to which the above petition refers has been previously mentioned in EVERY EVENING. Delicately stated, it contemplates raising the age of consent to 18 years; substituting life imprisonment, or, if the offender be under the age of 21, imprisonment for not more than seven years, for the death penalty; making seduction punishable by one hour in the pillory, 30 lashes and 10 years' imprisonment, with the proviso that if the offender be under 21 he shall be simply imprisoned for not more than seven years; and prescribing imprisonment not exceeding five years for any designing woman or girl who may lead astray any chaste youth of less than 18 years.