

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

C. E. T. S.

A New Year's letter from the Chairman of the Parent Society:—

Dear Friends and Fellow-Labourers, 1887, the year of Jubilee, has come and gone. It was the Jubilee—the 50th year of our Queen's reign. May God add many happy and prosperous years to her life!

Another Jubilee has come and not gone.

More than 3,000 years ago Moses, at the command of God, enacted that every fifty years a trumpet should sound throughout the land, proclaiming liberty to the captive, and restoration of their inheritance to those who, from any cause, has lost it.

Eight hundred years passed, and Isaiah saw in a vision that the Jubilee was but a type of Messiah's reign. "He hath anointed me to preach glad tidings to the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Seven hundred years again passed, and Jesus of Nazareth stood in the synagogue where He had so often worshipped. He read the words of Isaiah, and sat down. And the eyes of all were fixed on Him, and He said, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears." "The acceptable year" had come. The freedom was from the bondage of Satan. The lost inheritance was that of the sons of God. Proclamation was to be made throughout the world.

That proclamation has not ceased. With every new year it is the trumpet-tone which should sound throughout the land, summoning the Lord's servants to be up and doing; in the name and power of their Lord, to "loose the bands of wickedness; to undo the heavy burdens; to let the oppressed go free; to break every yoke."

Who need to listen to its stirring tones more than we who are banded together to break the strongest yoke that Satan has fastened on the necks of our fellows; to undo the heaviest burden; to deliver them from the most cruel slavery—that which has fallen upon them through the temptations of strong drink? Away, then, with all faithless, discouraging thoughts! Away with slothful, self-indulgent ways! The "enemy has come in like a flood."

While, in other quarters, the scourge would seem to be abating, female intemperance is on the increase.

Our meetings must suffer no interruption; their devotional, Christian character must be steadfastly maintained; our personal efforts in rescue work must be redoubled; our project of an inebriate home must hang fire no longer for want

of funds; our prayers must go up as incense every day; the newly revived Prayer Union will help us in this. The Hand of the Lord is not shortened that it cannot save.

Let the one thought of each of us be, "How much can I do to defeat the machinations of the evil one; how many of my enslaved brothers and sisters can I bring back to their lost inheritance as God's children in the year 1888?"

Your friend and fellow-servant, in the kingdom of Jesus Christ,

HENRY J. ELLISON.

—From the Church of England Temperance Chronicle.



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