

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

[We would be glad to receive short reports from the several parishes in Canada of Temperance work in connection with the Church of England Temperance Society, for insertion in this column.—Ed].

MITCHELL.—As is usually the case, the last meeting of the C.E. T.S. was well attended and profitable. Music, singing and speeches from Miss Amy Taylor, Mrs. Abraham Dent, Miss Smitheringale and Rev. Mr. Carson, formed a pleasing bill of fare. The ritual of the Society was used, and the 1st chapter of Daniel read and commented upon by the President, Rev. W. J. Taylor.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INFLUENCE.

"No man liveth to himself alone" is a text worthy of thoughtful consideration. Of conscious and intentional friction and collision with one's neighbors there is no lack. Manners have been called the oil of society. They serve to cool and ameliorate the rivalries and control versies which ever recur with serious or even fatal effect. The reverse of this picture is more attractive, and full of interest and encouragement. Public and private charities are abundant, efficient, and continually improve their methods and scope. The "daily bread" is indeed sure to come. Not years or months, or even weeks ahead, as we doubters wish it, but day by day, exactly as the prayer and promise says, it cannot fail, even to the lowest in means, health, or even character. A great famine and pestilence, following upon the devastation of vast teeming, fertile fields, by a river changing its bed, even in distant China, sends a thrill of horror throughout civilization. Each asks his neighbor with bated breath, "Can these things be?" A few centuries ago, horrors of equal enormity were not infrequently perpetrated by Christian rulers, and in the name of the Church of God. There is space to allude only to the great spread of individual influence by modern improved modes of communication. A leading editor was asked, as he approached New York in the morning, what he was about to do. He replied, "I am going to tell the people what they shall think tomorrow." He in fact reached and influenced the most intelligent, active and influential part of his fellow creatures throughout the civilized world.

But the absorbing branch of this topic is the unconscious influence of minds and hearts upon each other, in the growth or loss of character. Every night when we lie down to rest, the fact is that numbers of our fellow-beings have been helped or hindered, hurt or bettered in mind, body or character by our bearing, the expression of our faces, the tones of our voices, words out of the abundance of the heart, and the many other ways in which

character makes itself felt for good or ill. And these influences go on by successive transmission forever. It is in mercy provided that the eternal future is seen through a glass darkly, now and here. But this paper is ill written, indeed, if it does not make it clear that every man lives day by day face to face with eternal responsibilities. Each is his brother's keeper, not for today or to-morrow, but for all time and for eternity. It is a solemn, even an awful thought, when we think of the ever widening stream of evil that flows from even the best of us. But the stream of good may be just as potent and abundant, and constitute a large share of the "joy of our Lord," into which we hope at last to enter.—Record.

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