

Temperance Column.

SOME NONCONFORMIST

TESTIMONIES TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

(From the Church of England Temperance Chronicle.)

(Continued.)

The Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, M.A. (Wesleyan Minister), says: "We have learned, not for the first time in my judgment, an excellent lesson from the Church of England. We have adopted their broad platform, we have invited our Non-Abstaining brethren to co-operate with us in this matter as far as they see their way to do so. In our Church at Cardiff, which is in a very flourishing spiritual state, a Temperance Society has been formed on this broad basis. As in other places, some of our Abstaining brethren found it difficult to adopt these new-fangled opinions. They could not understand any other basis than that of Total Abstinence, and they held aloof, and created a little local difficulty with the best motive. However, what has been the result? That a number of our leading friends in the town, who would not have joined the Temperance Society if its basis had been one originally of Total Abstinence, did join; and when coming nearer, and putting, perhaps, some of their little prejudices on one side, they found what an excellent thing it was to become Total Abstainers; and the practical result of the step, made easy to them, is that they are nearly all Total Abstainers to-day, and there has been a total revolution in the position of Methodism in Cardiff with respect to this question. As I have said, I might have found this by experience in all parts of the world, and I am convinced that in such a Church as ours, as I have said before, we have everything to gain, and nothing to lose, by soliciting the co-operation of our brethren who do not see in this case exactly as we do. I am here to testify that this co-operation has been sincere and hearty, and that there has been no difficulty in practice. The result is that we have met the difficulty to which the previous speaker has referred by assuming that the ideal of Methodism is not to be an adjunct or supplementary agency of a Temperance nature, but the idea is that the Methodist Church itself should be the Temperance Society; that the two should be co-extensive. We regard it in the Church as an essential part of every Christian Methodist minister to promote Temperance work."

The Rev. R. H. Lundie, M.A., Moderator of the English Presbyterian Church, says: "Personal control was a thing which lay within the reach of all, and he did think, when they remembered how many of their brothers and sisters were perishing under temptation, that it would be good neither to eat flesh nor drink wine while they were in danger. Regarding the subject of Popular Control, he thought one of the most hopeful features at present was the resolution of the C. E. T. S. a year ago in favor of Local Boards."

The Rev. G. M. Murphy, Congregational Minister, says: "There is need for me to say in Lambeth Baths that I am an out-and-out Teetotaler, one of the old fashioned sort; but in welcoming Mr. F. Sherlock I wish to bear my emphatic testimony to the very great work which has been accomplished by the C. E. T. S., nor can I refrain from saying what an important influence is exercised by its Chronicle which reaches the highest dignitaries of the Church every week, and thus helps to mould that public opinion upon which so much depends."

Mr. Alexander Balfour, J.P., Liverpool, says: "Where is there a Society which more strongly deserves public support than the C. E. T. S.? I have watched its operations for many years, and I have come to the conclusion that whatever legislation is to be hoped for in the immediate future can only be expected on the wise lines laid down by Canon Ellison, the revered Chairman of the present Society."

(To be continued.) Always be in haste, but never in a hurry. Keep at one thing—in nowise change.

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