

9. The ninth advantage of membership in our order—and one, too, that is more important than any of the preceeding—is, that its leading principle—Teetotalism—is favourable to the spread of Christianity. In proof of this hear the following testimony of several most eminent clergymen :

The Rev. W. Morgan, B. D. Incumbent of Christ Church, Bradford, Yorkshire.—“Many very wicked abandoned characters, among whom were many infidels, have—by the grace of God blessing teetotalism—become an ornament to the Christian Church.”

Rev. W. W. Robinson, M. A., Incumbent of Christ Church, Chelsea.—“I can produce instances of the conversion of infidels to vital Christianity, who while they were drunkards would not enter a place of worship, clearly proving that teetotalism was instrumentally a pioneer of the everlasting gospel.”

Rev. H. E. Graham, A. M., rector of Ludgvan, Marazion, Cornwall.—“I should have good hope if every man in my parish were a teetotaler. I have known many brought to God by means of this principle ; many a reclaimed drunkard has become honest and God-fearing.”

Rev. W. Reid, Montpeller, Edinburgh.—“I have met with cases too numerous to record, of the worst kind of infidels, not only made sober by the adoption of abstinence practice, but affording indubitable evidence of a radical change of heart.”

W. Morris, Esq., Stalford.—“I am decidedly of opinion that the Total Abstinence Society has done more in reclaiming the drunkard, and placing him in the house of God, than any other agency. Some degraded drunkards, since signing the pledge, are members of our church, and are some of the most useful among us.”

Rev. J. Thorne, Sheebear, Devon.—“I know several drunkards who have been reclaimed, some of whom have been eminent for piety before they became drunkards; and I have known several instances of persons first becoming temperate through signing the teetotal pledge, and afterwards becoming subjects of a work of grace.”

Rev. W. J. Shrewsbury, Wesleyan Minister.—“As to the good temperance societies have done in leading those who were once drunkards to the house of God, and to the embracing the offers of salvation, I think they are so numerous that there is no religious community in Great Britain without witnesses among themselves.”

Rev. James Sherman, London.—“I have the pleasure every communion Sabbath to see several at the Lord's table who were once the curse of their families, the plague of their neighbours, and the grief of their own souls; now intelligent and devoted members of Christ's church, whom teetotalism first led to God's house, where the gospel formed them into 'new creatures' in Christ Jesus.”

Rev. Edward Bickersteth, A. M., Wotton, Ware.—“I am happy to say that I have experienced the moral benefits of the temperance cause in my own parish. In two or three cases drunkards have been reformed; to the great happiness of their families, through the exertions of some of my flock who have taken a lively interest in the movement.”

Rev. Walter Scott, A. M., Principal of Airedale College, Yorkshire.—“I know from the testimony of those on whom I can depend, of hundreds of reformed drunkards; I know some of them personally, and several of them are, members of Christian churches.”

There are those now in some of our Templar Lodges who, prior to joining us, were of debased character,—who brought manhood to bruteness, and even bruteness through to demonhood; but who, since their initiation as British Templars, have become useful members of Christian Churches.

The following may, therefore, well be added, as a suitable conclusion to the foregoing selection of testimonies:—

Rev. W. Marsh, D. D., Leamington.—“When we consider the good that might be effected in the order of means, by the saving of the immense sums injuriously expended on intoxicating drinks, and the evils both to mind, body, and estate, which might be prevented, surely no christian person, after giving the whole a fair consideration, can do otherwise than wish well to the TEMPERANCE CAUSE.”—*Protestant Dissenter's Almanack for 1859.*

From these testimonies we see that our Lodges may become powerful allies