

The Temperance Cause.
SPEECH BY THE BISHOP OF LONDON.

An important conference was held recently in Exeter hall, to consider the object of Saturday night drinking. The Lord Bishop of London (Dr. Temple) preached, and was influentially supported. His Lordship, in his opening speech, said: We are complaining on all hands that we cannot reach a great mass of the people. There is a very large mass that we cannot reach by any religious influence—that we can bring to bear upon them. A great deal of our religious work is absolutely thrown away. We constantly feel that we are sowing seed upon the rock, upon the hard soil where it has no chance. There is no minister of the Gospel whom I know who has anything to do with the great masses of the people who is not constantly praying God that in some way or other a door might be opened by which to reach the hearts of those who at present seem to be totally indifferent, whom you try to speak to and appeal to, whom you try to reach by every kind of an argument, that you can use, whose heart you try to touch, whose conscience you try to stimulate, and yet you find, do what you will, that there is an enormous mass who stand clean outside all your ministrations whom you do not touch at all. There is every kind of endeavour made to reach them. There are all sorts of excitements and movements, as they are called, and organizations—there is everything done that we can think of to endeavor to lay hold of them, and, after all, all that we can do in this way, how little it comes to. They cannot hear us. Is it possible for any one to doubt who looks at the facts of the case that one great reason why we cannot reach them is because of the prevalence of this one terrible sin? Is there anything else which makes it more impossible to gain access to their conscience? Is there anything else which the minister of the Gospel finds more directly in his way—as it were a stone wall which he cannot go through? There is nothing, as it seems to me, which can be put by the side of this one thing—the intemperance of so large a proportion of the people. (Hear, hear.) And these facts that we have collected here set before us in the most unmistakable way what the state of things is at present. We cannot, we dare not, pass over such facts as these. We know them. They have been put clearly before us. We are bound as Christian men to lay them to our own conscience and to consider what we shall do. Every single soul that

knows of such things as these is bound to say to himself, "This is a thing which touches myself, and what am I doing?" The very knowledge of it is a call from God. If he has allowed you to know it, it is as much as saying to you, "There is one of the deadliest foes of the Gospel that I have given you to proclaim," and when you see that foe pointed out, can you dare doubt for a moment that you are called upon to go forth and fight with it? (Cheers.)

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