

Temperance Column.

THE DUTIES OF CHRISTIAN MEN AND WOMEN IN RELATION TO TEMPERANCE.

BY REV. FRED. T. J. LLOYD, LEVIS, Q.

(From the Dominion Church of England Temperance Journal.)

The work of Temperance, which has met with such unprecedented success in the present age, and which gives promise of still greater achievements in the future, should heartily commend itself to, and enlist the sympathy and support of, "all those who profess and call themselves Christians." It is daily adding to its ranks numbers of the most educated and intellectual of our time, and public opinion has far been reversed; that whereas times not long past the total abstinence was looked upon and spoken of as morally weak, it is now insisted upon as a *sine qua non* of those who offer themselves for any position of trust or responsibility—as well as those who would possess the esteem and confidence of those with whom they are brought into business or social relations—shall either be abstainers from intoxicants or else strictly moderate in their use of them.

As a result of this success there is the danger of thinking that since so much has been accomplished in such a signal manner that therefore we may rest on our oars. But it seems to me that the more our work grows, and the more widely it extends, the greater need there is for increased, and not diminished, vigilance and zeal on the part of those of us who are proud to acknowledge ourselves co-operative in this good work.

We want every body to become, if not a temperance worker, which is very much to be desired, at least a sympathizer with our work: and, in order that those of the readers of this JOURNAL who have hitherto, for various reasons, failed to identify themselves with the work of Temperance may be induced to do so I have jotted down the following weighty reasons which I would earnestly ask them to ponder carefully and prayerfully:

Every Christian man and woman should use their best endeavours to stem the tide of intemperance.

1. Because it has been proved to a certainty that intoxicants are not only not necessary to promote and preserve health, but that they are absolutely detrimental to it, even when taken in very small quantities.

2. The effect of alcohol upon the brain is most injurious. This is proved from the fact that a very large percentage of the occupants of our madhouses is due to the use of intoxicating drinks.

3. It is the verdict of nearly all the judicial authority and learning of the age, that drink is the fruitful source of almost all the crime which has become so remarkably prevalent.

4. It has ruined the bodies, and there is, alas, sad reason for believing, the souls too, of the best of earth's sons and daughters. So much so, that there is scarcely a family of which one or more of its members have not fallen a prey to its deadly and seductive influence.

5. We know of no greater hindrance to the progress of the Gospel of Christ than the evil of drinking and drunkenness.

6. The enormous sums of money which are annually squandered upon intoxicating drinks, would be sufficient, if so applied, to provide and support as many missionaries as would be necessary to bring the glad tidings of the Gospel to every part of heathendom.

The second annual meeting of the British Medical Temperance Association took place at Dublin, Ireland, the President, Deputy-Surgeon-General F. L. G. Gunn, in the chair. In his address to those present, the President said that he had it from Dr. Richardson's own lips that he became a total abstinence himself with the greatest reluctance, for it was most distasteful to his feelings; but his investigations as a scientist led him to the conclusion that he should either accept its unmistakable teaching and abandon the use of stimulants, or else abandon the conclusions of science. Thus we have the evidence of a learned and renowned physician and scientist that fermented spirits are unfit for use, and that it becomes necessary for all of us to avoid it, as we would avoid a dangerous and poisonous compound.—*Ex.*

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