

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 21, 1914, Dr. Gordon gave the following answer to the question: "What do you think of Sir Rodmond's answer to the Temperance delegation?"

I am not going to answer that question this evening because I purpose preaching a special discourse on that particular subject; but I would like to make a few discriminating remarks concerning Sir Rodmond. Sir Rodmond possesses a character well worth studying. He is strong in his personality and exceedingly temperamental. He is unique in his style and interesting in his method.

Sir Rodmond talks like a man who has had his full share of public honors. He has squeezed the orange until there is no wine left in the rind. He has had his fill of perplexing problems and annoying situations. He is strong in his leadership and sure of his grip, but tired withal. Tired of criticisms, tired of delegations, tired of being withstood, tired of being misunderstood, tired of balancing this faction over against that—tired of his job. He talks as one who is ready to resign his commission—ready to relinquish high honors and seek the serene rest which belongs to one who has toiled hard for a long period. He has possessed all. He has nothing to risk. There is no reason why he should be over careful. He will speak his mind, offend whom it will. And for those who do not represent "votes," power, influence, rising sentiment and dangerous agitation, Sir Rodmond is apt to manifest a slight disposition to impatience, by a bold presentation of arguments which, for their force and power, depend more upon his own native genius than upon logical facts or a sound philosophy.

You cannot help liking Sir Rodmond. He is companionable. He is a man of many natural gifts. His business career has been successful. He is an orator of no mean ability. Few men on the continent of North America can handle an audience more skillfully. No crowd ever ran away with him. A suggestion of opposition sets him on fire. He would have made a great preacher. Sir Rodmond, as a Methodist preacher in the United States, would certainly have been created a bishop. He has presence, voice, grace, vocabulary, unction, force, and passion.

But Sir Rodmond's strongest gift is a genius for leadership. Select whom you will, but you will scarcely find his superior as a political leader. He knows which way the wind blows. He has his ear to the track. He has his finger on the public pulse. When there is "the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees" he is aware of the fact and accordingly bestirs himself.

Sir Rodmond by temperament is a