

The Temperance Cause.

The following letter, says the *North East*, (Portland, Maine,) of Mr. Beresford Hope on this subject may be of interest to our readers at this time, when there is so much *intemperate* temperance.

"I have no hesitation in affirming, as my own conviction, that the *extreme* position of the *intrinsic* unlawfulness of fermented liquors lies in the face of both Testaments, and most emphatically is antagonistic to our blessed Lord's teaching and revelation, from Cana to the Upper Chamber at Jerusalem. The question of the *duty of wholly or partially abstaining, as an act of Christian prudence*, is very different. It means how to fulfil the precept, 'Be ye temperate in all things.'

"Let us regard it as it affects—

"1 The individual soul.

"2 The Christian commonwealth.

"1 Morals and doctrine must alike conform to the supreme dominion of proportion. Pharisaism arises from the disproportionate and exclusive cultivation of one excellence taken out of its relation to other virtues, and heresy arises from disproportionately gazing on one side of truth. So now, singling temperance from drunkenness out of the whole wide and intimately connected world of Christian duties, temperance from uncleanness, temperance from spiritual pride, and so forth, may be a subtle snare of the devil, so as to leave the unguarded door open for all other sins to creep in through the too exclusive precautions taken in only one direction.

"2 But if such is the risk with the individual soul, is it not even stronger with regard to the Christian commonwealth? Is there no risk that the Church of the Abstainers may supplant—formally or virtually—the Church of the Baptized, with the ribbon in the button-hole instead of the cross on the forehead?

"The climax is reached in that which I cannot call other than a terrible profanity, the substitution of unfermented liquor for wine at the Holy Communion. Here, again, history repeats itself; for the denial of the cup to the laity had its root in an impatient and one-sided dread of inebriate disorder, which would not trust God in His own ordinance, but supplanted His command by human provisions."

C. E. T. S. NEWFOUNDLAND.

The second Anniversary service of the Church of England Temperance Society was held in the Cathedral, St. John's Newfoundland, the members of the different branches occupying the centre of the Church. Precisely at 7.30 the organ pealed forth, and the Choir and Theological students in surplices and cassocks, the Clergy, nine in number, and his Lordship the Bishop entered the Church from the Vestry, and moved in procession down the northern and up the centre aisle into the Chancel, singing the hymn beginning with the words "On this night of meeting" as a processional. Evensong was then proceeded with; the Rev. Ambrose Heygate taking the first, and Rev.

Reginald Heygate the latter part of the prayers; and the proper lessons being read by the Rev. T. G. Netten and the Rev. A. C. F. Wood. The psalms and hymns were specially appointed and seemed well suited for such a service; and the singing was heartily joined in by the large congregation. The preacher was Rev. Rural Dean Botwood, who delivered an able and impressive discourse, and one very appropriate to the occasion. At the close of the sermon the offertory, which was in aid of the Diocesan Branch of the C. E. T. S., was received and presented at the altar.

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