

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

SHREBROOK.—The meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society held in the Church of the Advent on Monday evening, 3rd December, was largely attended, the beautiful little church being crowded. Able and most interesting addresses were given by the Rev. Canon Thornloe, Rev. Albert Stevens, of Hatley, and by the Rev. James Hepburn, of Magog. At the conclusion of the meeting a number of new names were added to the total abstinence pledge book.

The November meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society, Orillia, was presided over by the Rev. R. W. E. Greene, who opened the proceedings with reading of Scripture and prayer. Hymns were sung at intervals, Miss McMullen presiding at the organ. Mr. Greene expressed pleasure at taking part in that portion of Church work; said he had long been engaged in it, and hoped that the Orillia Branch would this year enter upon an era of renewed activity. He described some of the awful effects of drink witnessed during his two years' sojourn in St. Louis, Missouri, and stated that experience proved beer and light wines were not a substitute for strong liquors—they soon failed to satisfy the appetite they created, and led to the use of whiskey, brandy, and other fiery liquors. He urged rescue work—the salvation of a soul was worth any sacrifice. Loving sympathy had been instrumental in the rescue of John B. Gough, and the same influence was as necessary in Orillia as in other places, and would not go unrewarded. Every one—man, woman, and child—had an influence, and he would rejoice to see it exerted in the rescue of the perishing. Tell the fallen of Jesus, the mighty to save. Personally he was a total abstainer, and while casting no reflection upon the red ribbon branch he would rejoice to see all even as he, in wearing the blue badge, because of the increased influence it would give them in temperance work. The Rev. J. Jones moved, "That we heartily thank Almighty God for the measure of success vouchsafed to the work of our Society, and we pledge ourselves to relax no effort in the great work of trying to reclaim the intemperate, and to preserve our young from the snares of drunkenness." He defended the red ribbon branch, to which he belongs, from what he regarded as an unfair preference on the part of the President, but expressed a hearty assent to the plea for rescue work. He pointed out the shortcomings of the Society, individually and collectively, with great faithfulness, but appeared hopeful they might have more to be thankful for—in the way of labour and its fruits—in the future than in the past. C. J. Miller, Esq., J.P., in seconding to the resolution congratulated the Society, of which he was proud to be a member, upon the ring of their President's address. The opening speech and the re-

solution "expressed his sentiment exactly." The true strength of the temperance movement was shown not when crowds were coming forward to support it with their votes, and a wave of enthusiasm was sweeping over the land, but in the hour of seeming weakness, when the enemy came in like a flood and appeared confident of carrying all before him. The voter might assist to carry the law, then join in violating it. He might be one who would use the tavern keeper's house and sheds without paying a fair equivalent for the accommodation—a most contemptible proceeding. These were no real help to the cause. But those who worked and prayed, to stem the evil, and to rescue the victims, to educate the young, and bring about a reformation in the principles and practices of the people—those were the strength of the temperance movement. The people of this country had passed through long agitation, resulting in the adoption and repeal of the Scott Act, and none could successfully deny that under license the drink evil had increased and was increasing. Mr. Greene would find the field in Orillia white unto the harvest, and he earnestly hoped that a blessing might rest upon their efforts for rescuing the perishing, and freeing our land from the curse of drink. Mr. F. Evans moved, that "the Orillia Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society desire to tender to the Rev. Rural Dean Stewart their hearty thanks for the great interest he has always taken in the work and success of the Society, and to express an earnest hope that he will accept the office of Honorary President of the Society, and continue his interest in its success." This was seconded by the Treasurer. Mr. N. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Murphy, that the following office-bearers be appointed for the current year:—Honorary President, the Rev. A. Stewart, A.M., Rural Dean; President, the Rev. R. W. E. Greene; Vice-Presidents, the Rev. J. Jones, Messrs. G. J. Booth, F. Evans, and S. S. Robinson; Treasurer and Librarian, G. H. Hale; Secretaries, C. Smithering-gale and H. Greenland; Executive Committee, Messrs. G. McMullen, M. Fraser, M. A. Evans, and A. Stewart; Mesdames T. Goffatt, N. Baker, and Greene; Messrs. N. Baker, R. H. Rowe, T. Price, and Bruce Murphy. God save the Queen was sung with great heartiness, and the meeting closed with the Benediction. The old social feeling is reviving in these meetings, and the audience dispersed slowly, notwithstanding the hour for closing was past.

At the next monthly meeting in December, the Hon. C. Drury, M.P., Minister of Agriculture of Ontario, is to give an address.

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