

Temperance Column.

THE BISHOP OF SODOR AND MAN speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Insular Branch of the C.E.T.S. thus referred to that great Society:

We must bear in mind that this C.E.T.S. is a comprehensive Society; it starts on a comprehensive basis. It comprehends men. We are all Churchmen, we all love the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are all anxious for the saving of souls. We may differ as to our views upon this point, but still we are all agreed as to the importance of the movement, and we agree to unite to carry out the great object of rescuing souls from the evil consequences of drink. (Applause.) Well, now, if we go forward in this way, as two regiments, so to speak, of the one army, it will not do for us to contend and strive as to the merits of our respective principles, it will not do for the Abstainer to turn upon the moderate man and say, "No, you will never be able to do anything unless you adopt my principles." Nor again will it do for the moderate man to find fault with the Abstainer, if he conscientiously feels that it is the best course for him to adopt. I have no hesitation in saying myself that Total Abstinence is the most important feature in connection with this work. (Applause.) But I am not a Total Abstainer myself; I wish I were. (A voice: "That's what I was wanting to know, your Lordship.") (Laughter.) Very well, you know it now. (Renewed laughter.) I have been a Total Abstainer from time to time, but simply from a feeling in connection with my health and work I was obliged to give up what I believe is a right good thing. (Hear, hear.) But at the same time I do not say that Total Abstinence is everything, or that it is enforced by Scripture. At all events our Society embraces two bodies—those who are Abstainers and those who are moderate men, and if we have both got the love of Christ at heart, if we are both anxious for souls to be saved, we shall not waste our time with eternity opening upon us, in strife and contention as to these things, but we shall both go forth in the power of the Holy Ghost, to do what we can in connection with this great work. (Hear, hear.) And now comes the important question of "What can we do?" You know how many things have been tried, and how many things are being tried. I like to take part in everything; I will do everything in my power to advance, to further this important work. A great deal may be done by legislation; a great deal may be done by removing the temptation from the people; a great deal may be done in various ways; and I feel we ought to do all we can in connection with the various openings that there are of helping forward this work. (Hear, hear.) I was very much interested—and perhaps my friend there who is so much interested in my position is not altogether a Total Abstainer. I was very much interested yesterday by

a communication I received, It just shows you the temptations to which the Clergy are exposed, and even Bishops. (Laughter.) I opened a very attractive envelope—I am always interested in letters from my friends—and the first thing I saw was "Wines for the Parsonage"—(laughter) and I found I could get sherry and port on what are called "clerical terms." (Laughter.) I thought it well as I was standing here this evening just to put this before you to show the temptations to which Bishops are exposed. (Laughter.) It just shows—"wines for the parsonage!"—how these people try in every way to draw the public into their net. It is like the money lenders who tell young people they can have money just for the asking. My son asked me to open his letters in his absence, and amongst them I found a letter a gentleman in London had sent to say that he could have money at the shortest notice—any amount without any security. I kept the letter till my son came back to tell him what an opportunity he had. (Laughter.) That shows the temptations there are to draw people into the net. They draw young people in in connection with money, and they draw many people in in connection with wines and strong drink. We should do everything in our power to grapple with this evil of drink; I do not care what it is, but let us do something. One will say perhaps one thing, and another another. Let us all try to feel that the time is short, and that we should exert ourselves by every means to rescue those who are becoming victims to drink. [Hear, hear].

(To be Continued.)

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