

Temperance Column

Sir Andrew Clark's address con- sidered.

And I ask—What are you to think of those who are born of drunkards, who come into this world, so to speak, with a curse not only upon them, but in them, the terrible desire for that which is to blast them, and to blast them speedily—a desire which no human power can save them from, and which God alone, in His wisdom and mercy, can protect them from. What an awful thought is this. Can there be any man here present who, if he is taking more than he ought to take, is indifferent to all this? How can he think without dread of this terrible fact—for fact it is, as surely as that two and two make four—that this desire is becoming part of his nature, and that he is handing it down, not for good, but for the most terrible evil that man can suffer, unto generations yet unborn? Can I say to you any words stronger than these of the traffic effect of the abuse of alcohol? It is when I myself think of all this that I am disposed, so I have said elsewhere, to rush to the opposite extreme, to give up my profession, to give up everything and to go forth upon a Holy Crusade, preaching to all men—Beware of this enemy of the race.

Mr. Tudor Trevor, Ripon Diocesan Secretary of the C.E.T.S., in a paper read by him at the quarterly meeting of the Society for the study and cause of inebriety, Dr. Norman Ker, F.L.S., presiding, says—

Medical science has, further, unequivocally ascertained that there are certain predisposing causes or conditions of inebriety, inherent in the constitution, or supplied by external circumstance, which though perhaps dormant and imperceptible, require only to be awakened and excited into activity. Such, for instance, are hereditary peculiarities of temperament, ill-health, dissipation, bad companionship, anxiety and trouble, overwork and loss of nerve power, bodily fatigue, sedentary and irregular occupation, want of employment, unhealthy locality, atmospheric changes, and last, though perhaps not least, the pernicious drinking customs of society. Each of these would, I am sure, in more capable hands, provide ample matter for most interesting and profitable discussion, but I can only now thus briefly mention them.

Inebriety, too, as our common experience will tell us, is no respecter of rank or station, or of sex or age, for rich or poor, man and woman, old and young, educated and uneducated, are all alike subject to its thralldom, through either of the above-mentioned predisposing causes, or by more immediate and direct contact with the drug which is the irritimentum mali. Thus Inebriety, besides being a horrible and soul-destroying Sin, when contracted, and caused by persistent over-indulgence of the

animal appetite, in defiance of both the natural and the spiritual laws of the Creator, becomes also a disordered physical or mental state, and a disease to which our sad and suffering humanity is prone, the victims of which require both remedial treatment and kindly protection. This latter view of the matter is too often, I am sorry to say, overlooked, for it richly deserves the very earnest attention of all Christian people, and especially of our spiritual pastors and masters.

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