

The Temperance Cause.

The *Canada Citizen* (Toronto), in its editorial columns lately warmly commended the dual basis of the C. E. T. S. and stated that much of the success of the Scott Act campaign, in some counties, has been due to the co-operation and support of this Organization (C. E. T. S.); comparatively new, but already wonderfully extensive, influential, and successful. It continues:—

"The Church of England is conservative, independent and practical. Hence it was slow to fall into the line of Temperance reform, and when it did act, its mode of action was unique and carefully adapted to the circumstances and character of the people with which it had to deal. A movement on an absolutely Teetotal basis would not have enlisted in its ranks the steady-going community that had long been accustomed to the habitual use of stimulants without having been aroused to the realization of the terrible evils of Intemperance; nor would it have been supported by those moderate-drinkers who believed themselves safe and do not feel called upon to practice self-denial for the benefit of others. Without the assistance of these large sections of the community the movement would have had a class character, and a more limited sphere. These parties would have been compelled to either practically condemn a Total Abstinence movement by remaining outside it, or profess views that they did not entertain by joining it; conservative, moderate-drinking, unroused Churchmen (unless they were moral cowards and simply afraid of public opinion) would not have been affected either by its novelty or popularity. Then it was desirable to convince these people of the rightness of the Temperance cause, and this could be more effectively accomplished without either blaming them or claiming any virtue or wisdom superior to what they were supposed to possess. All could unite in condemnation of the evils of Intemperance, and it was resolved to enrol against these evils an army of all who were willing to work for their suppression, regardless of whether the recruits stood in the admittedly safest position of abstaining from all intoxicating drink, or practice Temperance by abstaining from what they considered excess. The results of this policy have proved its wisdom; the dual basis of the Society has secured for it a membership that it could not have attained if conducted more exclusively. The working power, the numerical extent, the social status, and the financial strength of the organization, all testify to this. The Abstaining Section in nearly every cause has been unexpectedly large and the General Section has rendered material help in many useful lines of work; its members have come within range of Temperance addresses, associations, arguments, facts, and other similar shot that would never have struck them had they remained (or been kept) outside, and as a result the General Section of the Society has

been in many cases an academic class from which the scholars have graduated into the higher position of Total Abstinents; and there has been a vast accession to the avowed and active working Temperance forces. In the Scott Act campaign the C. E. T. S. has formed one of the most reliable and serviceable detachments of our great army, doing noble and effective service in circles to which other agencies would have failed to find access. In a recent number of the *Church of England Temperance Chronicle* the dual basis of the C. E. T. S. is strongly advocated by the Rev. H. Edmund Legh.

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