

Temperance Column.

THE BAND OF HOPE IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

A paper read before the Sunday-School Association of the Diocese of Montreal by the Rev J. S. Newham, Assistant Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal.

(Continued.)

May I remind you of the wise old rule for cooking a hare, "First catch your hare," and may I add that the hares, or lambs, of which we are speaking are a little wild, and need some tact in catching? But having got them safely into the Band, and into the room, what are you going to do with them?

1st. Adopt the Sunday-school plan of having a superintendent and teachers, the most efficient you can get, and divide the children up into classes, only a little less formal and restrained than in the school. The personal attachment to teachers, and the little competition between classes, will help to success.

2nd. Always keep Temperance in sight as the main cause of your gathering, while at the same time you foster and draw out the kindly feelings of fellowship and sympathy between the different ranks of the children. Many societies almost lose sight of Temperance, and become mere gatherings for singing and amusement.

3rd. Therefore, always let a part of the hour be given to a Temperance lesson, talk, anecdote, or address, and, if possible, a good black-board lesson to the whole room.

4th. Break up the hour by occasional Temperance songs and hymns, and recitations by the children, and mind that the singing is of a kind suited to the children.

5th. There should be, once or twice in the year, some great gathering, when the parents and friends can be present, and when the children can carry out some programme. Having such a gathering to which their aim is directed, and for which they are working, will keep up the spirit of the meetings very much.

6th. Impress upon the children that their Temperance principles are not to be left in the room, but that they are to be Temperance Missionaries. Let me, however, add a caution, that the teachers should be very careful to guard against conceit, bigotry, or self-righteousness in the children, as this forms the ground of an objection brought against Bands of Hope.

7th. Make free use of Temperance literature, tracts, tales, &c.

8th. Work the pledge-book well

but wisely, I mean the Total Abstinence pledge. Let the assembled Band recite the pledge now and again, and see that they understand it. Have the pledge-book always handy for receiving new pledges, or renewing those that have expired. The moderation pledge may do for some adults, but Total Abstinence is the thing for children. In the face of the fact that in every Sunday-school some scholars turn out drunkards, I repeat, Total Abstinence is the only certain cure, and children trained to it will never miss the drink. There is not time to argue this point at length, but I will only say that the objections brought against pledging children may be fully met by making the pledges only for short periods, not for life; by having them well explained to the children; and by enlisting the parents' interest and help.

9th and last rule. Be sure and have the parents' leave, plainly and personally given, before you allow a child to take the pledge.

Rest assured of this, that Band of Hope work will go on; it is the best and most hopeful branch of Temperance work; and it accords with the spirit of Him who said "Suffer the little ones to come unto Me;" and "It is not the will of your Father that one of these little ones should perish."

In the National Temperance League's Annual, 1886, the age at death of thirty Temperance workers is given. It is remarkable that, whereas only one of them died aged 46, two died between 50 and 60 years old, nine between 60 and 70, seven between 70 and 80, nine between 80 and 90, and two lived to the age of 91 and 94 respectively. In the Annual for 1885 a similar testimony was given to the longevity of Temperance men. Verbum sap. Moral: Be a Temperance worker if you want to live long.

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