

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON "TEMPERANCE."

(Continued)

By way of illustration the Bishop said he might say to his washer-woman, "If you really mean to keep straight, you had better not touch the gin at all; better give it up altogether." He was, of course, liable to the answer, "You have never stood over the wash tub for many hours, or you would tell a different tale." That was a very effective answer. But if he could get a good many washerwomen to try it, and set them to argue with the other washerwoman—(laughter)—she could not make that answer to them. In this way total abstainers were constantly carrying on a very forcible argument in their own presence wherever they went.

In answer to the assertion sometimes made, that total abstainers are sour, gloomy people, his Lordship said he laughed as much as anybody did, and certainly a great deal more than most of the drunkards did. He did not at all deny that there were some really strong arguments against total abstinence. For instance, it was perfectly true that it was a serious thing to interfere with Christian liberty, and if they pushed this question so far as to use any sort of compulsion he did not think it would be right. There were arguments of that sort to which he always gives full weight; but let those who were so very anxious to preserve their Christian liberty, remember always that St. Paul warned them not to make their liberty the occasion of another man's fault—(applause)—and do their utmost in the exercise of their Christian liberty to diminish temptation. They could do much. Could they not, for instance, do a great deal more than they did in legislation? Would there not be a considerable diminution of temptations if the law would allow a serious diminution in the number of public houses? His own little boy, six years old, walking out on Putney Common, came on a drunken man. The little fellow was very much shocked, and was ready to cry; and he said to his nurse, "I should like to be king without any Parliament. I would make the stuff a guinea a drop, and then it would be too dear for them to buy it." (Laughter) Could they not learn a lesson from the six-year-old? Surely, they might agree that children at any rate should never be allowed to touch it at all. He greatly rejoiced in the Bands of Hope, but apart from that he thought they might do a good deal by persuading fathers and mothers to abstain from giving little children what might do them terrible mischief and would do them no possible good. (Applause).

(To be Continued.)

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