

XX.

*ADDRESS AT THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.*

THE subject allotted to me is "Juvenile Temperance Organizations, and their Promotion through the Sunday School, and Church," and I venture to think that no subject, of greater importance, will come before this Conference. The future of both the Church, and the world, depends upon the character, and conduct, of the young. If they grow up sober, intelligent, and Christian, the millennial glory will soon be here. If they become intemperate, sensual, and sinful, there is nothing before us but ages of sorrow, and shame. We may well, then, gather from all lands, and with prayerful earnestness ask, What can we do to ensure the well-being of our children?

It is a terrible fact that myriads of our young people have perished through strong drink, and that multitudes of others are in imminent danger. Intemperance is the giant evil of our land. Its victims are on every hand, and its blighting shadow rests almost on every home. This is not a mere theory, but a hideous fact, the evidence of which is written in tears and blood. Our greatest brewer (Mr Buxton) has declared it to be "the worst of plagues," and our greatest statesman (Mr Gladstone) has said that "its results are more terrible than those of war, pestilence, and famine combined."

This evil, juvenile temperance organizations are designed to grapple with and destroy. They, like most other of our