

Temperance Column.

SOME NONCONFORMIST TESTIMONIES TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

(From the Church of England Temperance Chronicle.)

On the opening of another winter's season of public meetings we think it may serve a useful purpose if we call attention to a few of the testimonies which representative Non-conformists have voluntarily given as to the work of the Church of England Temperance Society. We have not followed the recently introduced plan of sending a prepaid envelope to a selection of public men, requesting replies to a set of questions carefully prepared on lines likely to "fetch" enlogistic rejoinders; nor have we arranged to be interviewed to order, a practice which conveniently lends itself to the publication of complaisant paragraphs, in which self-esteem can run riot at the sweet will of the modest man interviewed. In the one case the opinions, however hearty, would lose weight from the fact of being influenced by a prompter; in the other they would be obviously valueless except as a palpably cheap advertising dodge, which could bring nothing but discredit to our Society.

The testimonies which we append are taken from the public speeches of the several speakers; and we need hardly say that they by no means exhaust the store of appreciative notices of the C. E. T. S. which leading Nonconformists have given.

Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P., says: "I am a Nonconformist, and I wish to see the Church of England disestablished, but it has done more to postpone the day of disestablishment by its Temperance work than by any other to which it ever put its hand. It has made the Church the 'Church of the people,' in a sense in which it has never been before. The C.E.T.S. is doing a magnificent work. \* \* \* Within the area of the Church is the C.E.T.S. in almost every parish in the country. They were initiating legislation; they were watching the Temperance movement from every point, and constantly coming to the front, and had been a mighty agency for good."

Mr. William Fowler, M.P., says: "Look at the splendid work which has been done by the C.E.T.S., by its multitudinous branches all over the country. It has, indeed, popularized the Temperance movement, and men are no longer ashamed of avowing that they belong to the Total Abstinence party."

Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P., says: "I know of no religious body doing the work on behalf of Temperance that the Established Church in this country is doing, and in that respect at least I wish that its example were followed by every other religious body in the kingdom." (To be continued.)

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