

The Temperance Cause.

BISHOP MAGEE ON TEMPERANCE.

The Bishop of Peterborough at the annual meeting of the diocesan branch of the C. E. T. S., spoke of the compulsory closing of public houses, which he said were in too many cases still the only places of resort or amusement for large portions of the people. Now if we interfered legislatively—and he was very far from saying or thinking legislation had reached its utmost limit in the matter—with what people rightly or wrongly considered to be their amusement, or their recreation, or their pleasure, and if we did that in the interests of society with the desire of ameliorating the people, then *we must take care that we carried the people with us.* They must be careful that they did not *drive the people into some wretched alternative* between those places of amusement and none at all. People talked of closing licensed houses as if it were an easy thing to do. Let them picture to themselves an artisan, with his wife and children, walking out on Sunday four or five miles in London, seeing all along the closed shops, dull and uninteresting, and only two places open—the one the publichouse where he could have a seat and welcome, and the other the church where he could not always have a seat and welcome. (Cheers.) Some people fancied that they would succeed in driving all these into a church by the mere and single act of closing the only rival of the church. Let them close publichouses if they thought it right and necessary, but let them for *pity's sake* provide for those in whose face they shut the only place that they were accustomed to look upon as places of resort and amusement something else and something better. (Cheers.) Let them give the people healthy recreation, innocent, elevating amusements, and open spaces in the great towns. By such means they would promote the great cause of temperance and check the great evil of intemperance.

The *Literary Churchman*, in an extended review of Dr. Valpy French's valuable work, *Nineteen Centuries of Drink in England*, says:—

Dr. Valpy French displays throughout this volume painstaking research; and endeavours to set forth the information which he has gained in an impartial manner. The book is one which must interest every reader who cares to find out how the customs and habits of his countrymen have been formed, and how in the future the errors of the past may be turned to account. The sensible spirit in which the author has accomplished his task may be gathered from his concluding words: "A better tone is beginning to prevail, which augurs well for a time when, abuse being buried in the harsard dust of oblivion, man may not hesitate to use the gifts which a gracious Father has given His children to enjoy."

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(From the Mail, Can., Dec. 16th.)

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