

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

PORT DALHOUSIE—A branch of the Church of England Temperance Society has been formed here. On the Wednesday before Christmas, Rev. J. L. Spence kindly came, bringing his optical lantern with him, and reading "The trial of Sir Jasper," and "The effect of the Bottle," illustrated by a number of scenes. Great interest was manifested, and thirty three persons became members of the Society. At a meeting in the church on the following Wednesday seventeen members were added, and last Wednesday six more, making a total of 55—46 of whom are abstainers, Rev. Rural Dean Gribble is much encouraged and hopes as part of the Lenten work of this parish to form a branch of the White Cross Army.

THE CHURCH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY IN ENGLAND.

The Dean of Rochester has brought upon himself some rather severe animadversion by his recent utterances on the subject of total abstinence. It seems to us, however, that the Dean did not more than use the entire freedom of speech which the Church Temperance Society allows to all who join it and seek to further its great object. Every man who is impressed with the gigantic evils of intemperance, and who is disposed to aid the Church in her efforts to remove those evils, is welcomed to its ranks. The Dean as a member of the Society, has not renounced the right to hold his own opinion of the best method of combating intemperance, and no displeasure ought to have been felt at his public expression of that opinion.

At the same time, there undoubtedly are cases in which total abstinence is the only path of safety; and there seem to be cases in which a solemn resolve and pledge of total abstinence is of essential service. On a certain affecting and solemn occasion, when a person who had fallen in that way insisted that he would not surrender his manhood by renouncing his liberty, the Bishop of Alabama, said to him: "If a man has subjected his manhood to the slavery of a degrading habit, he has laid upon himself the necessity of renouncing his liberty that he may again be free."

In the work of devoted men among the degraded classes of "the prison population," there is a strong evidence that the pledge of total abstinence has been the means of great good. The chaplain of Stafford prison testifies that the Church Temperance Society is one of the foremost of all the agencies by which the fifty-seven local prisons of England and Wales are being emptied, and he insists that the abstaining section of the society's pledge has left a decisive mark on "the prison population" of the country. In ten years, he says, there has been a diminution of the female inmates of prisons to the amount of 25 per cent., and of girls and women under twenty-five years

of age a diminution of 35 per cent. Much of this decrease of crime and misdemeanor the chaplain, who has certainly the best means of information, attributes to the work and influence of the Church Temperance Society, and especially to its pledge of total abstinence.

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