

ferred to the inadequacy of the old pledge, he said in the Lancashire dialect, "I'll hev nowt to do with this moderation—botheration—pledge; I'll be reet down tee-tee-total for ever and ever." This extension of the pledge was agreed to, and met with little or no opposition except from Dr. Edgar, of Belfast, who, convinced that it was wrong to forbid the sober use of fermented liquor, seeing God created alcohol, and approved of the moderate use of wine, urged a few unanswerable objections to total abstinence.

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THE FACTS ON WHICH DR. EDGAR BASED HIS OBJECTIONS.

"1. Fermented liquor, and therefore intoxicating, was used as a customary beverage among the Jews, by the righteous and by the wicked.

"2. Fermented liquor, for customary use, was esteemed by the holiest men a special blessing.

"3. Fermented liquor was commanded by God to be offered to Him in religious service.

"4. Though God, in peculiar circumstances, commanded certain persons to abstain, not from fermented liquors merely, but from every thing which the vine produces, yet the use of fermented liquor as an article of diet and refreshment had his full approbation and sanction.

"5. Jesus Christ, when on earth, Himself used fermented liquor, and created it for the use of others.

"6. Jesus appointed fermented liquor to be drunk in the Eucharist, as a suitable emblem of His atoning blood.

"7. Though prophets and apostles, and Christ Himself, were fully aware of the enormous and multiplied evils arising out of excess in the use of fermented liquor, yet none of them ever pronounced the use of it sinful, or proposed its utter extermination as the means of preventing or curing drunkenness, but on the contrary, they drew a clearly-defined line of distinction between the lawful use of such liquor and guilty excess. Their denunciations were hurled