

Temperance Column.

HOW CAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS HELP IN TEMPERANCE WORK.

BY KATHLEEN M. TOWNEND. IN THE Church of England Temperance Chronicle.—(Continued.)

Again, another opportunity occurs in teaching the Church Catechism, when it may be strongly impressed that the widespread evil of Intemperance mocks at the sacredness of baptismal vows, and renders empty words our declaration, that it is part of our duty to our neighbour to keep our bodies in "Temperance, soberness, and chastity." Indeed, occasions multiply as we seek them, for bringing home to the hearts of the children, the teaching of God's Word about, and the great importance of, this Temperance work of ours. But we must ever guard ourselves against creating the impression that Intemperance is more heinous than any other sin, or that a temperance man or woman has less need to be watchful or prayerful than others; but let us rather liken the crusade against Intemperance to a struggle going on in that part of our defences where our great spiritual enemy, cognisant of our weakness as a nation, leads up the most persistent attacks; pours forth the volleys of his ammunition, and year by year sweeps down thousands and tens of thousands into the darkness and despair of so many drunkard's graves; and that, therefore, it behoves us, one and all, who would be true soldiers of the Cross, to throw ourselves into the breach, and by concentrating our energies there, hurl back, by our united efforts, the reproach and sin from which we have so long been suffering.

And again, I think that every Sunday-school teacher anxious to do battle in the cause of Temperance, should endeavour to get up the subject a little; should be prepared by a knowledge of some of the statistics to point out the extent of the evil; should be ready to answer some of those perplexing questions on the subject which children are so apt to put—e.g., should some young soul be troubled on account of the miracle at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, it can on the one side be pointed out that the wines of Scripture, though intoxicating to a degree, were utterly unlike the fiery, spirituous liquors of these days, for that fermentation then was only known, the distillation of spirits being a discovery of many centuries after the commencement of the Christian era; on the other hand, that whilst not condemning moderate drinking as a sin, they, in the present widespread prevalence of Intemperance, are wise to obey the injunction of Israel's wise king—"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red," for, "at last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder."

Now I do rejoice that so many of our Sunday-school teachers are at the same time members of our

Temperance Society; and whilst hoping that all the others may, in time, see their way to enrol themselves among our members, I do most earnestly entreat those who have already done so, to use all their possible influence in promoting our Temperance work in their classes. Will they not talk to the children about the Children's Branch, and encourage them to join it? Will they not come sometimes and help at our children's meetings, and so identify themselves with our Temperance work? For it is no mere truism to say that the hope of our country's future depends a good deal on the manner in which the children of the present day are taught to regard this question. And as from one and another of zealous Temperance workers the same sad story comes, how hard a thing it is to reclaim an habitual drunkard, when reason and will are alike chained by the demon of "drink," the cry goes forth to all, "Save the children," guard them against the first beginnings of this great evil; teach them that we cannot be neutral, we are either working on God's side, in this matter, or against Him; and so I believe as we train these young souls "to abhor that which is evil, and to cleave to that which is good," we shall be found workers together with Him who said, "Is it not the will of your Father which is in Heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

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