

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

The Executive Committee of the Church of England Temperance Society have passed the following resolution: 'That it is most desirable that children under sixteen years of age should not be served with intoxicating drinks in public houses, whether for themselves or others, and that our branches be urged to keep this question to the front, with a view of amending the law in the next Parliament.'

On the 2nd Wednesday in June, Honolulu and Umfeti, the envoys of Gungunhama, king of Gazaland, had an interview with the Native Races and Liquor Traffic Company, at which they gave an account of the ruin and degradation effected by the means of the spirituous liquors with which white men corrupt and destroy the natives. Huluhulu, who was the spokesman, declared that who's tribes are destroyed by the spirits with which the country is flooded. The dusky South African potentate whom they represent is sufficiently intelligent and enlightened to want to prohibit the traffic, and asks our support in his efforts to do so, which, we hope, may be given. The Company, which is opening up Mashonaland, have, we understand, prohibited the importation of spirits into the districts under their control, and we wish that this were the policy generally pursued by the governing powers in Africa. The traffic ought to be as sternly prohibited, and any infraction of the prohibition as severely punished as in the Fiji Islands, where the whites are not allowed to sell, give, or even allow opportunities of stealing, alcoholic beverages to the natives. The punishment, which is strictly enforced, for violating the law is a heavy fine or imprisonment. Its very severity at first induced some persons to disregard it, under an impression that the penalty was too heavy to be exacted. There were soon, however, convinced by £50 fines, or a year's imprisonment of their mistake. The moral and social condition of the natives and immigrant Solomon Islanders have been much improved by these salutary measures. We wish that in Africa a similar state of things existed. The slave traffic awakens our compassion for the African, and excites our indignation against the brutal slave dealers, but it may well be doubted whether all the horrors of that traffic are equal to the horrors caused by the drink traffic, which is permitted by our Government, and is carried on chiefly by our own countrymen.—*Church Bells.*

In his eloquent address at the annual meeting of the Band of Hope Union, Archdeacon Farrar bade the workers to be of good cheer, for theirs was one of the most Christ-like works undertaken in these days. The best patriots were those who did most to defeat the powerful machinations of the enemies of their country, and that was their work. The great Moltke had said that beer was a greater curse to Germany than the French. Wellington used to send men forward to the villages

through which his men would pass and buy up the liquor that his soldiers might be kept sober: and Prince Leopold had said that the great thing England had to fear was the drink. He (the speaker) reckoned that if the parents of England would but entrust their children to such institutions as Bands of Hope the good name of England would not be defaced as it was now, and we as a nation would be put on an altogether different basis.

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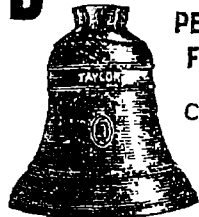
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