

Temperance Column.

TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

The following thoughtful letter from the pen of a correspondent of the *Church Press*, is very suggestive, and demands attention. We must have the subject discussed thoroughly, and must avoid being led away by mere popular excitement.

"We of the Church, having for a long time kept ourselves, perhaps too much, aloof from current schemes of philanthropy, are now taking hold so zealous y that there is no little danger that we shall be found among those who out Herod Herod. Our treatment of the temperance question ought to be radically different from that pursued by outsiders; for theirs is based on totally erroneous assumptions. They, the 'regular temperance party,' hold that the use of alcoholic 'over ges, including wine and beer, all being called 'rum,' is everywhere and always sinful. They also claim the right to set up a standard of virtue, and force all men to conform their lives to it. Both these propositions churchmen have always protested against. Here we are truly protesting Episcopalian. These outside brethren have, moreover, practically carried the idea that when a person allows himself to fall into sin the responsibility shifts from his shoulders to those of his fellows, who must alter their mode of life in order that the sinner may be forcibly kept from a course which is wrong for him because he has voluntarily made it such. This, also, is a totally erroneous doctrine. When a man urges that my drinking certain stimulants in my reasonable way, induces him to sinful indulgence, and that it is therefore my duty to abstain for his sake, he is simply impertinent, and that is the whole of it. If I choose, for any reason, to curtail my liberty so that I may, as I think, the more effectually labor to draw others from sin, my voluntary sacrifice is my own affair, and cannot be drawn into a precedent or made into an obligation. The use of alcohol, more or less diluted, is an act totally devoid of moral significance, and it is a wrong to draw it within penal limits. He who sets up arbitrary standards of right and wrong, not based upon reasonable scriptural interpretation, is an enemy to true religion, and should be so considered.

"Prohibition' involves a 'forgotten man' who used God's gifts as not abusing them. A portion of the trade in both hard and mild intoxicants is perfectly legitimate, and free from wrong either in the seller or buyer. The only reason why 'prohibition' has ever seemed to succeed is that it has never yet prohibited. This forgotten man has made no stir because he has not felt the pressure. When he does, a new element will come to the front. "The enactment of penal laws on this subject, in any State, means chiefly that a number of enthusiasts have pushed them, and no one cared to make strenuous resist-

ance. It is understood in New England, that no one ever votes against propositions supposed to be in the interests of 'temperance.' The statute books of several States are loaded with cumulative enactments, piled Pelion upon Ossa, the only significance of which is that none are ever literally enforced. It is like providing that hanged men should be drawn and quartered, which seems dreadful till you learn that there are none hanged.

"Far be it from me to attempt laying down a rule of action for my brother churchmen; I only desire to call attention to certain conditions which may reasonably induce them to caution, so as to avoid running into positions from which, though never so much desired, extrication may be difficult, and through which a notable loss of prestige and influence must ensue. A. C."

A TEMPERANCE FACT.—The British budget teaches an impressive temperance lesson. Within the last ten years the revenue from alcohol has decreased \$22,500,000, concurrent with an enormous increase in the revenue derived from the comforts of life. The money once spent for liquor now goes to the family.

Chief Waubano, of the famous Delaware Indians gave a most interesting and powerful address on the influence of religion and abstinence on his fellow Indians, at a meeting of the Emmanuel, Maida Vale, London, England, Branch of the C.E.T.S., recently. He appeared in the garb of a chief armed with the tomahawk (now used as a pipe of peace.) He is seventy-one years old, active, vigorous, and speaks strongly in favour of total abstinence, which he has practised for over thirty years. Mr. Richardson, Recorder of Cork, who presided, said he had been an abstainer for thirty-five years, and could bear strong testimony to the value of total abstinence, both in his official and personal capacity. On the motion of Dr. Norman Kerr, a vote of thanks was awarded to the lecturer and chairman.

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