

Temperance Column.

THE USE OF WINE IN HOLY COMMUNION.

The following memorandum was addressed by Bishop Stevens of Pennsylvania, to a clergyman of his diocese, some of whose candidates for Confirmation being pledged abstemiousness, objected to receive the element of wine in the Blessed Sacrament.

The memorandum is as follows: "Our Blessed Lord used the ordinary wine of the country, even as He used the ordinary bread of the country at the institution of the Lord's Supper. In His Divine omniscience He looked through all the future, and saw every possible consequence of such an act. Yet He deliberately chose the 'blood of the grape,' when He would symbolize the Blood of the Cross, and, in His infinite wisdom, which can do no wrong, ordained that it should be used in all places and ages, and among all conditions of men as the one Divine way of celebrating the Lord's Supper.

"To hesitate at taking a small sip of wine from the chalice, because it is used by others for intoxicating purposes, is to reflect on our Blessed Lord's wisdom and goodness and love and purity, and to affect to be purer and holier than He.

"The Lord Jesus—if you take the wine in His strength and at His command—will keep you from all evil consequences to yourself and others; whereas disobedience to His command dishonors Him, insults Him; sets up your judgment against His, and will put your own self-will above the positive command, 'drink ye all of this.'"

The National Temperance League Depot has recently published a valuable card, giving some suggestive figures from the comparative mortality returns as recorded by the Registrar General. The annual average mortality is stated as 1,000 deaths per 64,641 males. It is interesting and instructive to note the following relative death-rates in different classes:—

Table with 2 columns: Category and Death Rate. Categories include Clergy and ministers (556), Farmers and graziers (631), Labourers in agricultural counties (701), Carpenters and joiners (820), Coalminers (891), Masons and bricklayers (969), Plumbers, painters, and glaziers (1,202), Brewers (1,361), Innkeepers, publicans, and beer-dealers (1,521), Public house and hotel servants (2,205).

Temperance workers will do well to widely distribute this telling and effective plea, if for no other reason than that it contains the following golden sentence from

the Registrar General's own pen: "The mortality of men who are directly concerned in the liquor trade is appalling, and that this terrible mortality is attributable to drink might be safely assumed a priori, but the figures in Table L (Causes of death) render it incontestable."

On Tuesday night, June 14th, the inaugural meeting of the Deaf and Dumb Temperance Army was held at the St. Mark's Parochial Hall, York street, Walworth. There was a good attendance of the deaf and dumb of South London present. The Rev. E. Abraham, the President and founder of this new Temperance organisation, acted as interpreter, and at the outset of the proceedings gave an account of the foundation of the Society, which already has a large number of honorary supporters amongst members of Parliament and well-known gentlemen in the Temperance world. The Society aims at establishing Branches all over the country among deaf and dumb.

OPINIONS OF EMINENT ENGLISHMEN.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The value of Temperance work may be gathered from the following statements:—

The late Bishop Moberly:—"The movement already shows signs of the blessing of Almighty God upon it, and I trust and pray that it may continue to spread over the whole Diocese until there is no parish without a Branch, or a portion of a Branch, of the C.E. T.S."

The late Earl Shaftesbury, K. G.:—"The more I examine and travel over the surface of England, the more I see the absolute and indispensable necessity of Temperance Associations. I am satisfied that, unless they existed, we should be plunged into such an ocean of immorality, violence, and sin, as would make this country uninhabitable."

Bishop Wordsworth:—"Such a method of Church Defence is most valuable and wholesome in the present critical period of our history. About two-fifths of the parishes of the Diocese had Branches, and he trusted in a few years to see that number doubled. There was no reason whatever why that should not be done."

Earl Nelson:—"The agricultural labourers, who years ago would do nothing to help themselves, are now clubbing together in Temperance Guilds and the like, with the avowed purpose of improving their position and checking that evil drunkenness which has been at the root of most, if not all the miseries that have hitherto kept them down."

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