

Temperance Column.

At the Annual meeting of the Ipswich (England) Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, Mr. A. F. Vulliamy read the report of the Council, expressing thankfulness that the cause of Temperance had met and was meeting with continued success, total abstainers being now so common as not to excite surprise. But great as had been the increase in the number of total abstainers, the success of the Church of England Society, with its Double Basis, had been still more noticeable in the greater moderation in drinking on the part of non-abstainers, especially in the middle and upper classes. Men who for various reasons would not become total abstainers had, through the efforts of that Society, had their attention called to the sinfulness and waste of excessive drinking, and had moderated where they had not altogether abstained.

The Mayor of Ipswich (who occupied the chair), said he felt the value of Temperance a year ago he felt it with redoubled force at the present time, for no one could preside at the magisterial sittings, and see the cases which came before them week after week, without feeling how many of them were due entirely to the undue consumption of strong liquors—in fact, he should not be going beyond the mark when he said that nine-tenths of the cases that come before them were due to that particular cause. Therefore, it behoved all who occupied a position of even the slightest influence to use it as far as possible in the cause of temperance. It had been stated in the report that the Society rested upon a Double Basis. To his mind that was one of the great reasons of the success which had attended the C.E.T.S.—(applause)—for he must confess that in times past one had rather been alienated from the cause than otherwise by the somewhat intemperate language of those who had been urging the temperance of the people. Therefore, those who were moderate drinkers might feel thankful to the promoters of that organization, and it was their duty to do all they possibly could to promote its success. They had been told that temperance had been more adopted by the upper and middle classes than in times past. He thought that remark also applied to the working classes, and so far as his experience went he had no hesitation in saying there was more temperance amongst that class than ever there had been before. (Applause.) This had had a good effect upon their conduct, and many points which told against them as a class had been removed, and we find those who were workers occupying altogether a different position in society. There was one point which he urged upon working men with a great deal of confidence, because it was a rule he had himself adopted. He advised them not to drink except at meal times; and if they carried out that maxim they might depend upon it tem-

perance will flourish in our land, and those family quarrels, of which they heard so much at their magisterial sittings, would disappear from their midst. (Applause.)

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