

success. By many of her highest dignitaries, and through all the ranks of her ministry, total abstinence is being adopted and enjoined on their flocks. She scruples not to pledge to abstinence her members who are already pledged to *Temperance*, and the far-sightedness and policy of the Church of Rome cannot be denied. The example thus set up in that communion may shew, that a strict adherence to a dogmatic theology does not conflict with the system of pledging to abstinence, which is recommended under that method of dealing with intemperance, of which I am speaking. Where the theology is less dogmatic, as among the various Protestant denominations, a pledge does not conflict with any theories, and so has among them been widely adopted. Between these extremes, stand the historic Church of which we are members, possessing the dogmatic Faith once delivered to the Saints. Need this Church, Apostolic in doctrine, and primitive in practice, hesitate to employ the pledge, to arm her members against those occasions of sin, which have proved the ruin of so many. I see no reason why she should, so long as it is regarded as a voluntary action, undertaken in view of a present need for it.

Assuming that I have been able to establish to your satisfaction this point, many questions arise, which ask for some solution. For example—"Are Temperance Societies desirable"? If it is found that a number of persons in our parishes are pledged, ought we to form them into a Temperance association?

Subject to one principle, I believe that it is desirable thus to band these together. The principle is this, they must not overshadow the Church. The Church is the Divine appointment, by which the Gospel is to be preached. The Temperance Society must not claim to be more than a very humble handmaid to the Church, in battling with one difficulty. But a society of this kind is also desirable for the purpose of keeping alive an interest, otherwise apt to flag. An occasional meeting will be necessary; the basis on which such a society and such meeting should rest ought to be that of religion. We should exclude fun and frolic, now too often associated with such