

Temperance Column.

THE HON. GEORGE CURZON ON TEMPERANCE.

(Continued.)

But I am glad to say those times are past and gone; we are living ourselves in better days; the Church has risen to the level of her high calling. She herself sets the example to her followers, she herself starts the crusade against this curse of drink, she herself binds the cross upon the shoulders of her adherents. (Applause.) Well, I think we may fairly say that the signs of the times are in our favor. The clergymen, we see, have pronounced for Temperance; the doctors have pronounced for it, and you may be perfectly certain that the doctors are not the people to go in for a dying cause. (Laughter.) Society is daily more and more pronouncing for it; and what is perhaps more important still, the great masses, the millions of the country, are becoming converted. Having all these forces working in one direction, the issue cannot be long postponed, and of its character there can be very little doubt. As to the minor differences which may separate us, the Church ought above all things to be tolerant. She is the Church not of one sect or section only, but of the whole people, and the principle of toleration is extended to the duty of Temperance. She does not insist upon binding all down to conformity with one rigid rule. The C.E.T.S. adopts and pursues this principle of toleration by having two classes of disciples. There is the class for those who advocate and who practise Temperance or moderation, and there is the class for those who advocate and practise Total Abstinence or Teetotalism. The difference between the two is not altogether unlike that which we recognize between the forces of Conservatism and Radicalism in the political arena. That is to say, one party prefers and pursues a moderate line, the other party likes swooping and drastic reform. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Well, for my own part, I honestly confess to you that I belong to the former, or Temperance section. I am not myself a Total Abstinence, nor am I in favor of total prohibition. I believe that we have to see that drink is properly used, and to see that it is in no case abused; and if there are some of you who think you can best attain that object by going in for its disuse altogether, I tender you my respect. (Hear, hear.) It appears to me that although there may be differences between the actions of different people amongst us, yet these differences are as nothing to the great bond of unity which holds us together, and although there are some who prefer to be moderate drinkers, and others who prefer to be Total Abstinence, yet we all stand side by side working loyally in the same direction, the suppression of this gigantic curse. (Applause.) We can recognize in each other comrades who must stand side by side to stem this tide of evil and lift up the cause of good,

and if in our efforts to do so we succeed in rescuing one soul from the clutches of the fiend of drink, or in restoring peace to one unhappy home, we may well feel our labor has not been lost, that we have done good service in our generation. (Loud cheers.)



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