

Temperance Column.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AND THE
NATIVE RACES.—Continued.

We shall show that this Temperance cause is of larger proportions than men may have thought of before. It is good that our work is growing at home; it is good that now we are able to count up those who are devoted to the cause of Temperance, not only by thousands, but by hundreds of thousands, nay, even by millions. (Cheers.) It is good that we should be able to say, in the face of those who scorn us and resist us, in the face of those who call us "fanatical," and insist that we are really not true in our contention, and that we are not in earnest in our endeavour; in the face of those it is good that we should show them that the cause is growing everywhere, and that whether they look at home or whether they look abroad, whether they ask what England is doing in the English Colonies—they will find the same answer on all hands. There are men who know the terrible curse of Intemperance; there are men who are determined to use their persevering efforts wherever they meet with Intemperance to strike it down. (Cheers.) We gain in influence unquestionably as we gain in visible presence in the world. We gain in influence as we gain in numbers. We gain in influence as we spread wider and wider. We gain in influence as our perseverance becomes more clearly seen. We gain in influence as we go on, not content with what we are doing, but perpetually pursuing our enemies wherever those enemies, intoxicants, may be found. It should not be said that Englishmen, when they quit this country, should abroad find an open field without any check in which they may pursue their mischievous trade. (Cheers.) It should not be said that in the regions only half discovered of the great Continent of Africa it should be possible to go on with this most accursed business—(loud cheers)—whilst the Native races remain unchecked and unprotected, because there are none to tell the tale. We will pursue the evil all the world over. (Loud cheers.) We will pursue the evil, and will not slacken in our endeavours. We will pursue the evil until we have made the great body of thoughtful men understand that what we have taken up is no mere theory of ours, no mere fad, or fancy of a few excited brains; no mere whim which has seized upon a small body here in this country which has no inherent power of its own, but that the cause is one which has laid hold of the hearts of religious men, which as time goes on only deepens its penetration into their consciences, which as time goes on only strengthens their convictions of the duty that they owe to their fellow-men. We will make all understand, all from the highest to the lowest, from the legislator, who is laying down laws for the conduct of his fellows, down to the simple individual, who is known to perhaps

but his own immediate circle. We will penetrate through all classes and all ranks, and everywhere we will reiterate our perpetual declaration, our declaration of war, against what we know to be the enemy of God, what we see to be the enemy of man. (Loud cheers.) I congratulate the League upon having made this step forward in the course of this year, on having taken so prominent a part in what is certain to be so real an addition to its work. I congratulate the League on the share which it has taken, and which share shall never be forgotten, but I must warn you, my friends, I must warn you all, with every step forward in a conflict like this, is not only an added resolution to persevere in the cause, but it is an added responsibility. If you have undertaken this in the spirit of men who are in earnest, depend upon it you are responsible to God not to be slack, but to be persevering in the work. You are responsible to God that what you have undertaken shall not be allowed to drop by reason of any coldness, of any want of energy, of any want of real determination on your part; and in proportion as the League has its share in this work, in that proportion shall the League be held answerable to God and men for persevering steadily forward in promoting the great cause by whatever means shall be given to its hand. And it will be a discredit to us if we allow it to be said at any time hereafter, that we have taken the part in a forward step of the most important kind—a step which will make its mark in history, which is certain to make its mark upon the world, and then forgetting what we have done, and neglecting the high calling that is upon us, to follow on and on, on the path on which we have begun and called others to join in—it will be a discredit to everyone of us if we shall fall back, and shall no longer do our share in what we have thus made others take their part in. My friends, I have spoken earnestly about this—(cheers)—because I do feel that this League, of which I have the honour to be President, must not be allowed ever to forget that great achievements bring with them great responsibilities, and that if you would let the thing altogether alone nothing might be said of you for neglecting it afterwards, but when you have put your hand to the plough, woe betide you if you look back from the work that is before you. (Loud cheers.)

We regret that the pressure on our space makes it impossible to find room for a fuller report of the League's anniversary. There was a large and representative attendance, and the speakers included the Rev. Canon Fleming, the Rev. Peter Thompson, the Rev. J. Gelson Gregson, Miss Weston, and Mr. Thomas Whittaker, J. P., whose interesting personal reminiscences were greatly enjoyed.

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