

Temperance Column.

CANON DUCKWORTH ON INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY IN REGARD TO TEMPERANCE.

(From the Church of England Temperance Chronicle.)

Canon Duckworth in concluding his sermon at the Annual Temperance Service in Westminster Abbey, said.—But on these arguments, powerful though they are, I do not lay stress to-night. Rather let me point you to that great motive which simplifies all duty. Remember, brethren, that the man whose Christian life began with the question, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?" was the same who in after days asked another question, "Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not? He whose heart glowed with love of the brethren who "saw all men in Christ, and Christ in all men," may well be our pattern here, and guide us to our duty and our blessedness. Well I know that he who, realizing his responsibility, denies himself, not merely that he may make the solid contribution of his own abstinence towards the sobriety of his country, but that he may make abstinence the easier for some ensnared or tempted brother, must encounter scorn of his weakness. He may not in these days have to suffer the reproach of singularity, which was made so galling to the first who dared to abstain, but he must expect often to be set down as a foolish enthusiast, who is abridging the innocent comfort of his own life and doing little good to anybody else. Again and again have I heard the question asked, "Why should I deny myself what I enjoy and can take with impunity because my neighbour abuses it?" Just the same question in substance must have been asked about St. Paul. Philosophic men of the world who watched him, and saw him playing so unweariedly the part of the brother's keeper, taking upon himself the burden of everybody's cares and temptations, and making incessant sacrifices of his own ease and his own tastes for the sake of others, set him down, he tells us, as a weak man. Yet he gloried in the things which concerned his weaknesses. He was willing, nay glad, to bear the reproach of a selfish world. He felt no shame in surrendering a right of his own if by so doing he could remove a stumbling-block out of a brother's way. Is not this the spirit which we need to see more and more developed in our midst?—the spirit of that love which seeketh not its own? He who in that spirit lends himself to the great social reformation so imperatively called for in our time, has not only taken up an impregnable position, but has learned the secret of moral influence, nay rather, of redeeming power.

Oh, believe it, true strength is shown in the willingness to become weak with the weak, true liberty in the readiness to lift others' burdens, and to bear the yoke that a brother may go free.

No less than 3,542 seamen have pledged themselves total-abstaining members of the Missions to Seamen branch of the O.E.T.S., on board the Mission ship Tisbe, at Cardiff. The little church on board is consequently crowded with seamen on Sundays, whilst there were 10,000 attendances of seamen at the week-day morning services last year. The Missions to Seamen chaplain reports that:—"Temperance is, and even must be a most important branch of the Society's teaching. Many a seaman points to the date of his signing the pledge, and kneeling in prayer for help, as the Red Letter day in the calendar of his life. It may not be quite out of place here to give one instance in point. About nine months ago a man just returned from sea inquired for his friend, the chaplain, when, after the usual welcome had taken place, he asked the clergyman to allow him to place in his custody his wages—a considerable sum of money. Before handing them over, however, he laid £1 on the table, saying—'That, sir, is for the Mission.' Then placing another sovereign by its side, he added, 'and this, sir, is for the hard-up lads.' He was then asked if he (a man with a wife and family to support) could afford to contribute so liberally to the Missions? To which he made reply: 'If you only know'd what the Mission has done for me and mine since I know'd it, you would be more likely to ask why I have given so little.'"

The Bishop of Durham, speaking in the House of Lords, on the Durham Sunday Closing Bill, said:—

"A generation ago England was going from bad to worse through Intemperance, when a noble body of Temperance workers arose, and by their energetic action the tide has been stemmed, and an appreciable influence has been exerted over the morals of the country. Now, I ask is it generous, is it just, is it consistent that, while every good citizen speaks highly of the achievements of such work, our opponents should use words of contempt towards those who have wrought those achievements? I will speak quite freely, for I claim no merit to myself—I am only the spokesman for those who have borne the heat and burden of the day. For myself I am content, and more than content, to be supposed to be possessed of a 'craze' if I can do anything, however little, to mitigate this great evil. History is full of consolations for stronger and wiser and better men than myself who have been called harder names. Their cause has, however, triumphed in the end, and future ages have enrolled them as their benefactors."

The cheerful are the busy. When trouble knocks at your door, or rings the bell, he will generally retire if you send him word you are engaged.

The Oregon prohibitionists polled some 2,000 votes at the recent elections,

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A General Meeting of Churchwomen, will (D.V.) be held in Montreal, on Thursday and Friday, September 8th and 10th, for the purpose of organizing "The Women's Auxiliary to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada."

The "Provisional Committee" named by the Domestic and Foreign Mission Board, in issuing this call for a meeting, while the "Provincial Synod" is in session, acts with the full sanction of the Board.

All Churchwomen who contemplate attending, are requested at their earliest convenience to notify the Secretary that their names may be sent to the Reception Committee in Montreal who will receive them as guests during their stay.

It is earnestly desired that there shall be at this meeting a representative from every Diocese in this "Ecclesiastical Province of Canada."

On behalf of the W. A. Provisional Committee.

ROBERTA E. TILTON, Secretary.
251 Cooper st., Ottawa, June 23rd.

N.B.—Arrangements will be made with the different railways, to issue return tickets at reduced rates to those attending the meeting. 12-5

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