

Temperance Column.

SPEECH BY THE BISHOP OF RIPON.

The true aims and principles of Christian Temperance were admirably set forth in a speech delivered the other day at Durham, Eng., by the Bishop of Ripon. His lordship, after making some local allusions, went on to say:—

Their Chairman had told them that there was an objection to any interference with the liquor traffic by way of legislation. While he believed much might be done by persuasion, and a little by the help of legislation and the hand of gentle coercion, he did not think it was very wise for them to over legislate. Legislation was not merely the passing of laws, as he understood it, but it was the passing of protective laws, not for irritating and harrassing a particular trade, but for the protection of a certain class of people whom he knew were most anxious to be placed under the protective influence of the law. When a trade or occupation did interfere with the liberties of the subjects, they were bound to interfere to protect those liberties. (Applause.)

The blame for the state of matters might be fairly divided between the man who drank and the man who tempted him to drink. So long as this evil of temptation existed, so long must they be prepared to prevent those persons falling under the influence of temptation. He believed nothing would be so valuable to this end as the diffusing of really well considered, well thought out, and well grounded information. But he cautioned them that whatever they did in this crusade, or in any other crusade, to avoid making effects by mere sensationalism, for it would always re-act against the object they had in view. They were members of a Society which, being connected with the Church of England, had as its basis Christianity, and therefore higher and more precious must be their sacred regard for truth than mere effect or any temporary advantage. He therefore deprecated any action which was not founded upon really well-ascertained facts. He was glad to know that sober feeling men of the medical profession were giving themselves to the study of the causes of inebriety and, were endeavouring to trace them physically. They were not anxious, he hoped they were not anxious, however zealous they were in this cause, however much their Christian charity and pity and passion might be awakened by the sight of those victims—they were not anxious to do otherwise than base their action on wholesome, well-ascertained knowledge, and go to the world with anything but the solid basis of true facts beneath their feet. (Applause.)

Therefore they were glad those medical men were endeavouring to trace back as far as they could to the root the physical cause of all this evil. Here they were brought into a whole region of facts, and in dealing with

this question he could speak, not on his own authority, but on the authority of those who had investigated this matter; for at the medical congress held in Cambridge it was declared that no fewer than 16 per cent. of the cases of insanity were due to Intemperance, and that 20 per cent. of the inmates of Handwell Asylum were there through drink. The Bishop proceeded to instance how men of genius and men of commerce had been shipwrecked by the temptations that were laid in their way to partake of intoxicating stimulants, and maintained that better, more practical, and more enduring work would be performed were those temptations removed, and were men to labour from a sense of duty, and to bring their powers under reasonable and proper control. He had told them that they ought to well and wisely diffuse information, and now he would say that greatly as he valued institutions and associations like this, which could gather the people together and speak to them most earnestly, he would say that above all he thought that the highest and greatest work they could do was to instruct parents how to deal with their children from their youngest days.

The greatest of all physiologists of the present day, he meant his namesake, Dr. Carpenter, had told them that habits were often formed in the cradle. The mother, or the nurse, had to deal with a child, which was a little organism of unknown possibilities. Then there was the fact that in many instances the child did inherit, not indeed, as some had said, a natural craving for alcohol, but there did exist an abnormal condition born with that child, or at least possibly born with it, that would give it a solicitude for that which was injurious. Then ought not parents to reverently care for, and ought they not to safeguard the opening years of that child's life? The mother who yielded to the child's desire for any kind of food at a time at which it ought not to have such food was not doing fairly and honestly with that child, because the craving ought to be controlled.

They ought to safeguard the infancy of children, and train them to that regularity of taking proper food which would not merely be a good habit, but would give strength to them. The speaker then went on to dwell upon legislation and the need of an environment of spiritual organisations such as that, as wholesome and as efficient as they could get. If they surrounded themselves with a moral and spiritual atmosphere, they could create a healthy moral opinion on the subject of Temperance, and if, in their efforts, they did get legislation, and they lost in spending, they would gain in saving. (Applause.) They were told they were working for a more tremendous revolution than they conceived. Be it so. Yet while he would say so, they should be truly careful not in any sense to infringe the rights of a brother man, nor to do injustice to any community, and while he would be happy to vote compen-

sation if any case were made out of any person who had been badly dealt with, he hoped that one thing would remain their guiding star, and that was that they should ascertain what was right, and do it in God's name, and leave to God's providence the ulterior results of so noble a revolution. (Applause.)

The Bishop Designate of Ely (Lord Alwyne Compton) took a leading part in the formation of the Worcester Diocesan C.E.T.S. early in 1882, and was elected with the Bishop's cordial approval President of the Society at its first Council meeting. He has always been most regular in attending the Council and Executive meetings, and has ever displayed those qualities which are most valuable in a Chairman of a business meeting. As a preacher and speaker thoroughly loyal to the double platform, recognizing not only the need for drunkards of Abstinence, but also the Christian love displayed by many people who, for the sake of others, deny themselves, he has done noble service for the Society.

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