

Temperance Column.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON CONCERTED TEMPERANCE WORK. (Continued.)

That indicates a very considerable change upon thirty or forty years ago; and in fact public opinion has touched the whole of society, and the reason why the Bishops had, as a body, done a great deal to promote this cause, is because the more they are brought into contact with the people at large, the more they are infected with the feeling which prevails amongst all the better, and all the more religious, and all the more earnest among the people that this cause is the cause of God. (Cheers.) And feeling that there is this growth in public opinion, so, too, there is a marvellous change in scientific opinion. About that there can be no question at all. There are a very large number of scientific people still tell us that intoxicating drinks are good things, but they now universally insist upon moderation, and their moderation has become more moderate and more moderate as time goes on, until the quantity they seem disposed to allow people, if it goes on at the present rate of diminution, will, in another fifty years, have reached the vanishing point. (Laughter and cheers.) We shall go down to the assertion that these things are very excellent, but you had better never touch them without the doctor's orders. (Cheers.) The change in this respect is very remarkable indeed, and I have no doubt that the Colonies, as well as the Mother Country itself, will all share in the advantage of such a change. These are matters of encouragement. These are matters on which we can congratulate one another. I should be glad to know how far what is true of this country is true of her dependencies. I have said that there were three things that I hoped would come out of this Conference—mutual instruction, mutual encouragement, and also the possibility of joint action. Joint action in this matter is a thing which ought to come, as it were, not in the opening address of the President, but in the conclusions that may be drawn after the Congress is over. But I venture to suggest whether we might not do a good deal towards seeing that every member of a Temperance organisation who he left these shores for the Colonies carried some sort of introduction to a Temperance organisation at the place to which he is going. Would it not be a good thing that he should be quite sure of welcoming men at the other end of the world who are already with him in the matter, so that he should not feel that he had to begin over again? Would it not be an admirable thing that he should be certain of finding those who should hold out the right hand of fellowship the moment he stepped upon the shore of his new country? I think an arrangement of this kind might be

initiated and organised with very great advantage. There is something of the sort already, but it seems to me that what there is already is rather of a private nature, and men go with introductions from friends who belong to Temperance Societies here who belong to Temperance Societies there; but I wish that we could put it upon some footing so as to make it official—so that a man should not depend upon chance, but that the Secretaries and the officers of the Societies at home and in the Colonies should be in such relation and correspondence with one another that anyone going from the one to the other should be quite certain of finding some sort of welcome at the place he visited, and be told that there were friends who were as heartily devoted to the cause as he was himself. This I throw out merely as a suggestion for your guidance, and I conclude by apologising for making a longer address than some of you have wished—(No, no)—and by bidding you give a most cordial welcome to all representatives of other Temperance Societies in other parts, either of this or of her Majesty's dominions generally, and hoping with all my heart that they will help us to carry on our work, and that they may find help from us in carrying on theirs. (Loud applause.)

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