

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The following Pastoral in support of the Church of England Temperance Society has been issued by the Bishop of Lincoln:—

Just as the great Missionary Societies of the Church of England fully recognise that the Church herself is the true and divinely appointed Missionary Society, and that they themselves are only her auxiliaries in her endeavours to execute the commission which she has received from her Divine Lord, so the "Church of England Temperance Society" acknowledges that the Church herself is the true and divinely instituted Temperance Society; and that it is only by acting in dutiful obedience to the Laws delivered by Him to His Church, and contained in His Holy Word, and also by labouring in humble dependence on that divine and spiritual grace which flows from Him, and is given to the faithful in answer to prayer, private and public, and is dispensed by her in the sacred ministries of religion, that the Society can hope for His Blessing on its work, in endeavouring to stay the plague of Intemperance, and to restore the community to a healthier and holier condition, physical, social, moral, and religious.

While, therefore, this Society acknowledges that every one who has been baptized is under a solemn vow to "be temperate in all things" (1 Cor. ix. 25); and whilst it also freely admits that under certain circumstances and with proper precautions, it may not only be expedient but also requisite for some persons to be total abstinents, both for their own sakes and for the sake of others; and, while it highly esteems those who are actuated by such principles; it also greatly honours those who "add to their faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity" (2 Peter i. 4-7); without which none of those other graces are of any avail (1 Cor. xiii. 1-3); and therefore it is guided in all its acts by a spirit of Christian charity, and mutual forbearance: and does not enforce total abstinence on any (Rom. xiv. 3-6), as a term of communion with itself; and while also it does not venture to condemn as evil any of God's creatures, which He "hath created to be received with thanksgiving," as well as "to be sanctified by prayer" (1 Tim. iv. 3-5), it feels itself bound to deliver a solemn warning against all excess in the use of those creatures, as a sin against the Creator who has consecrated human nature by the Incarnation of His Dear Son, and has made the human body of the Christian to be "a member of Christ" (1 Cor. vi. 15), and to be a "Temple of the Holy Ghost" (1 Cor. vi. 17-19), and therefore not to be desecrated by intemperance, but to be "possessed in sanctification and honour" (1 Thess. vi. 4), in "obedience to the will and word of Him who says, "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter i. 16); and "without holiness no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. xii. 14); and "whether ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. x. 31).

For such reasons as these I earnestly commend the Society to your cordial support.

I am, my dear friends, your faithful servant and brother in Christ,

C. LINCOLN.

At a meeting of Cornish clergy, held at Truro on Saturday, it was announced that the Home Secretary had promised to bring in as a Government measure a bill in the coming session for the purpose of erecting Cornwall into a separate bishopric, on condition that £30,000 were at once raised to give it £1,000 a year as a stipend, in addition to £1,200 a year promised by a layman and the £800 a year which the Bishop of Exeter has promised to allow.

SCOTLAND.

THE BISHOPRIC OF BRECHIN.

On Tuesday the Synod of Brechin met in St. Andrew's Church, Brechin, for the purpose of electing a successor to the late Bishop Forbes. Deán Nicolson presided. The names suggested were the Rev. Canon Furze, Principal of Cuddesdon