

stances, too, they may be employed in giving a new direction, as well as an increase of power to physical strength. So, too, with mental training. A mind that could scarcely comprehend the simplest analogies, may be so trained as clearly to understand the most complex phenomena of science, or employ itself with the speculative problems of man's condition and destiny in the unending cycles of eternity.

Now, we would ask, is all this increase of power given to educated mind without anything like a commensurate responsibility? Our State is taxed for every educated mind it contains: and not merely for the schooling and sustentation of that mind while in the process of training, but of many other minds whom disease has paralyzed, or who have been cut off by the hand of death, or bound in the fetters of hopeless insanity. The expense of all who fail, is to be added to the account of those who are successful, just as the merchant arrives at his real gains only by subtracting all his losses from his profits.

No one can fail to see, from this illustration, how strong are the claims which the State has on every educated mind. We may say that it has provided the means of education for every such mind. And why has she done so? Was it not because she hoped to advance the best interests of humanity? And what has the State a right to expect from minds thus favored? It is not that those she has thus elevated to their high places, will be circumspect themselves and true to the great trust reposed in them? And what return has she received? Although many of her sons have demonstrated again and again, that intemperance is a deadly curse—that the moderate use, even, of intoxicating liquors is pernicious, and although examples from all classes of the community have been fearfully multiplied, making “assurance doubly sure,” that “wine is a mocker, and strong drink raging,” yet, how many educated minds still withhold their influence from this great work? Why is it so? Do they want still more evidence to convince them of the evils of intemperance? Ask any well educated and unprejudiced man if such is the fact, and he will feel himself insulted by the question. And well he may. You might as well ask him if the sun has anything to do with light. But we state no new fact when we assert that educated mind has done but little, compared with what was its duty, in this cause.

Look at the reluctance with which many of our educated men consented to abandon the tempting cup. It was their duty to have been the first in this cause. To them more clearly than to the rest of the world is it given to understand the vast superiority of reason over mere animal appetite and passions. And yet, how many minds of the highest order have refused to follow the guidance of reason and conscience, and been shipwrecked on the quicksands of unbridled appetite: Look at Byron, “with his large capacious soul.” The richest stores of learning were spread out before him, and all nature seemed ready to serve her gifted son. Was not the world right in expecting much from one so richly endowed, and did he not owe to his race the influence, at least, of a spotless example? But the plains of Missolohghi need not again repeat their tale—it is known to all. Nor need we draw out from our own literary annals, the dark history of “Lacon’s” author. Let the cloud that now conceals it remain unbroken. Let Scotia’s Barl, too, the immortal Burns, rest in his grave, and the ill-fated Savage remain undisturbed.

All these, and thousands of others—the gifted—the cultivated, and the refined, have gone down to the drunkard’s grave. They were honoured by the world, and the world expected much at their hands, but they basely bartered their glorious privileges for a drunkard’s degradation. Indeed, we sometimes almost fear, that in the cause of temperance, the aphorism of the Roman Poet remains true. But we hope not. We trust that there is still left to educated mind

that recuperative power which shall yet bring all its energies into the service of suffering humanity. We hope that by precept, but much more, by example, it will perform its appropriate part in admonishing the wavering—in succouring the weak, and in raising up the fallen.

## THE MAGISTRATES AND TEMPERANCE.

*For the Dundas Warrier.*

Mr. Editor: I have not had the pleasure of taking up my pen before, to solicit a space in the columns of your journal: but, believing you to be an uncompromising advocate of correct and virtuous principles, I feel that you will not refuse insertion to what I have to offer on the subject at the head of this communication. You are aware, as well as very many others, of the great abuses that have arisen under the present tavern license law; how that several taverns and drinking houses were being multiplied to an extent which nothing seemed to regulate but the demands of an intemperate public thirst, till the very peace and welfare of society seemed to be threatened with being swept down to ruin before the flood of liquid fire. You are also aware that the public authorities, upon whom devolved the duty of administering that law, used to tolerate the abuses referred to, by not inquiring into them, or by neglecting to act for their removal when brought under their view: but now, from recent occurrences, about to be mentioned, we begin to look for better days; and may not every friend to public morals and the true interests of the community hope, that that light which is beginning so benignly to shed its rays upon us, will soon burst out in all its splendour, to expose the horrid features of those vices arising from intemperance, which require only to be seen in the light, to enlist every feeling of humanity in deadly opposition to them and their cause. What, then, are the late events, on which we found our hopes for the future? Why, sir, the praiseworthy conduct of our magistrates at their late sessions for issuing inn keepers licenses. We find that the number of licenses has been greatly reduced, and restricted to such as the law recognises as eligible to receive them: a fact that we can not apply to the past with the same propriety that we can to the present. The magistrates now listen with attention to the public voice on this subject, which seemed heretofore to be unheard; and may not I here say to the friends of temperance, who perhaps began to despond, do you not see fruit of your efforts now, calculated to prompt you to renewed zeal and perseverance in them? In looking over a Toronto paper lately, and seeing a letter in reply to the petition from the ladies of that city to the mayor and council, from the mayor, Mr. Gurnett, I confess the character of that respected gentleman stood forth before my view with an elevation that it never did before: and I have no doubt that the same admiration was shared in by all who prize the nobility of his sentiments. But not to go so far from home, the magistrates of the Gore district deserve high commendation for their firmness in resisting the applications of unworthy and unqualified persons for license; and although they have been importuned beyond measure, still, so far as I can learn, a first refusal has been firmly adhered to by them. Both the old and new magistrates have combined to ameliorate the evils complained of: and although the cold water man may not feel satisfied while alcohol continues to send its cursed streams abroad, yet any advance towards drying them up should be gladly hailed by him; and as we have of late been looking to these authorities for their aid to our cause, their present movement in our behalf demands our gratitude and joy; and may they become, as they ought to be, in every respect, conservators of the public welfare, by suppressing every evil that militates against it, and then receive the honour due to their merits.

SOBERSIDES.