

AN ARTIST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

J. W. BENGOUGH, CANADIAN CARICATURIST AND HUMOROUS POET.

BY THE EDITOR.



J. W. BENGOUGH.

A notable example of this is the work of Mr. J. W. Bengough (pronounced Bengoff), of Toronto. The chief praise we can give this versatile artist is that he is always on the right side of every moral question. He uses his crayon as Saint George used his spear—to transfix the dragon, Vice. Like the old knights errant, with lance in rest, “he rides abroad redressing human wrong.” Like Sir Galahad,

“His strength is as the strength of ten,
Because his heart is pure.”

He is no Don Quixote tilting at windmills, but at the very solid facts of an intrenched liquor traffic, at commercial greed trampling on the rights of the poor, at the unhallowed lust of pleasure invading the sanctity of God’s holy day.

Mr. Bengough is a Canadian, was born in Toronto, but removed at an early age to Whitby, and

Among the keenest weapons with which the panoply of folly, and even of vice, can be pierced are the shafts of satire. Often where argument and logical demonstration have no effect, the barbed and polished arrows of ridicule find entrance between the joints of the armour. Hence the striking moral effect of caricature in art. Unfortunately, your professional caricaturist has often turned his weapons on that which should be sacred. Great moral questions, like temperance, Sabbath-keeping, social reform, have been made the butt of ridicule. the targets for the shafts of scorn. But enlisted in the cause of right and righteousness, the gift of humour is a potent ally of the great moral reform of any age.



was brought up there, with no special academic advantages or artistic training. His best education was received in that modern

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