

religious and political reform, that is now agitating the world. Its upward, onward march is irresistible, because based in the steady determined efforts of the people, whose will must be their law. It is a maxim both old and true, that "an enlightened people cannot be enslaved"; nor "despotism exist with the liberty of the press, any more than night can happen before the sun is set." This is a law that has few or no exceptions, and is as true in morality as in politics, with individuals as with nations. Give to a man his full liberty, teach him its whole worth to himself and his posterity, and how to enjoy and appreciate it, and he will not easily surrender it, or mingle with the follies that cloud the vision of the ignorant and unintelligent. Just so with nations. What but the intelligence of the people has preserved the constitutions of the free nations of the world, and brought them to be great as well as free? that has cherished agriculture, manufactures and commerce, and founded their numerous benevolent and literary institutions, that will live on history's page? And what but this shall continue to guard their liberties, mature their internal improvements, extend their commercial interests, and foster their literary institutions, amidst the jarring convulsions that now threaten to revolutionize the political world? They have no other security, they ask no other, they need no other. Just so it is, but exactly the reverse, with the despotic powers of Europe, Asia and Africa. The ignorant hordes that live in humble submission at the feet of the despot, acknowledging him to be the great father of the universe, and believe this to be the chief end of their existence, need but the light of civilization, and the dissemination of that knowledge which teaches men that men are equal, and they will assert their rights and take their place among the free nations of the earth. These remarks may be considered foreign to the subject of temperance, but I maintain that they are just as applicable to this as any other subject. When the day arrives that communities and nations shall view the subject of temperance, and the evils of intemperance, in their proper light, when they shall give serious attention to the absurd practice of using intoxicating liquors, as an article of drink, and its consequent evils, and become fully alive to the importance of their responsibility, when they consider the position they occupy, that they hold in their hands the destinies of rising generations, who must soon succeed them in the discharge of the duties of public and private life; then, and not till then, will the evils of intemperance cease, and the bloodless, spotless banner of temperance be wafted in triumphant victory from shore to shore. That that day is approaching is no longer a matter of mere conjecture, but of unmistakable certainty; and the friends of temperance need not despair, if they are true to their trust.

I will now close my communication with a few remarks, that I had at first intended should be the principal part of this letter. The recent visit of the celebrated John B. Gough, to this section of the country, is, doubtless, fresh in the minds of the readers of the *Advocate*, as well as hundreds who never see it. But I can hardly suppose that the accounts that have been given of his three lectures in St. Catharines, have conveyed to all an idea of the impression they wrought on the public mind. Not only St. Catharines, but the surrounding neighborhoods and societies, seem to have been awakened from their slumber, and are moving nobly onward. Old societies are reviving, and new ones are organizing. The visit of John B. Gough to this part of the country, is a circumstance that will long be remembered and blessed by many who can look back to that day as one of the brightest and best of their lives. But to the zealous retailers of St. Catharines belongs the praise of securing his services. To his services, through their exertions, are we indebted for the zeal and interest

that now pervade the community, and are exerting an influence that the most sanguine had not expected. Had the distinguished lecturer come up fully and fairly, to the flattering accounts that had been given of his master abilities, we should have been satisfied, and our expectations would have been realized. But in this we were disappointed. Not sadly, however, but happily. He did not equal, but excelled all description, surpassed all expectation, and left the highest praise accorded to him, far in the rear to serve the mere purpose of giving some faint idea of the real greatness of the man. But this is not all. He did not merely visit us and then retire, leaving us to admire his greatness as a speaker, but he left much good resulting from his labors. The hardest heart could not withstand his appeals, nor deep-rooted prejudices remain unmoved under his captivating eloquence. He dealt and dwelt upon matter of candid fact, in a manner that carried conviction to many minds, that then saw, for the first time in their lives, perhaps, some reality in the great cause of humanity. He portrayed the evils of intemperance, and the sufferings of helpless innocence, in a manner that drew tears from eyes unused to weep. Amongst the hundreds who honored those meetings, and their object, with their attendance, were many who were subjects of deep anxiety. I mean the drinking class. But, be it said to their lasting praise, they went manfully forward and subscribed their names to the pledge, amidst the deafening applause of smiles and tears, and prayers and cheers.

Of those who have numbered themselves with the cold water army since that event, and who can look back to that period with a degree of pleasure, that I hope will ever cheer them on, to renewed and continued exertions, I shall take the liberty of giving the name of E. W. Stephenson, Esq. Since the time of Mr. Gough's visit, this gentleman has exerted an effort and an influence, that cannot well be overrated. He is devoting a large portion of his attention to the cause, and has already visited a large number of the societies in different parts of the District. On Tuesday evening last, he delivered a public lecture in the Presbyterian Church, Pelham, to a large and respectable audience. On account of some business transaction that had called him from home, he did not make his appearance until a late hour in the evening, but he arrived in time to fulfil his engagement, and was met with a warm reception. He returned the compliment fairly and fully, by an able address, that was received with enthusiastic applause, and which resulted in a triumph of 111 signatures to the principles he came to advocate. And it is due to Mr. Stephenson to say, that similar results have attended his efforts wherever he has been. He will lecture to-morrow evening, in the township of Louth, a few miles from St. Catharines, and, probably, if his services can be obtained, within a week or two, he will attend a meeting at the village of Forthill, on the town line between Pelham and Thorold. Our society will meet on Saturday, the 13th May, to appoint the necessary officers, and adopt a constitution, with a view to cooperate in the vigorous efforts now putting forth for the good of our cause and our country.

J. B. Crow.

News.

CANADA.

INTEMPERANCE.—The Rev. Mr. Chiniquy left this city, for Toronto on Thursday last, being summoned as a witness by the Parliamentary Committee on Intemperance.—*Post*.
MINING COMPANY NOTES.—We learn that the Montreal Mining Company are about to apply to the Legislature for permission to