

to God's dumb creatures. In the Province of Quebec, the Society some years ago requested all ministers of the Gospel to preach upon the subject, which was, we believe, generally done. Any desiring to become members, or assist the Society of Ontario in any way, should correspond with the Secretary, Mr. Thomas Elgar, Toronto.

IT IS DESIRED that the second Sunday in this month, October, be observed by the churches as a day of prayer for our College.

Correspondence.

INTEMPERANCE.

"What somebody meant to say," in your August number, brought out distinctly one of the evils of the day on which we are far too quiet. In times past our pulpits have usually given a clear and certain sound, while the pew has been fully up to the times concerning the evils of the drinking customs of society, and we may fairly claim to have taken a full share in moulding the tone of society thereto; but at present, while others who have been silent are rousing themselves to grapple with these evils, we appear to be weary in well-doing, and while we have slept perhaps the enemy may have sown tares in our field.

Never before had the Temperance cause so many advocates in high places as to-day.

Gladstone proclaims the drinking customs the curse of England; the Archbishop of Canterbury places himself at the head of a grand effort to leaven the Church of England with Temperance principles; while men of science proclaim aloud that, unless the growing evil is speedily stayed, the physical stamina of the British nation will, in a few generations, pass away, and England's glory with it. In Canada, many of the leading men of the larger denominations are placing themselves at the head of the Temperance movement, while we have become lukewarm. And yet the drinking customs are not less pernicious or injurious, or less the curse of society, than they were. Why, then, when we realize every day and everywhere that

they are the enemy of all virtue, and the greatest barrier to the cause of Christ, do we allow the hydra-headed monster to ensconce itself under the very shade of our houses?

If there is any one evidence of the depravity of human nature more remarkable than another, it is the fact that those who profess to be the disciples and followers of Christ allow their minds to be so clouded and their hearts so befooled by the customs of society as to tolerate and even embrace the most crying evils, and thus we have members of our churches, Christian men—men of intelligence and culture—indulging in the daily use of stimulants, and even offering them to others. The truth is, we need a new departure on the Temperance question, and we must have it.

In the history of the anti-slavery movement we discover certain men, who, in advance of their times and in spite of the opposition of their contemporaries, were to be singular and take their stand upon the rights of man as man, whatever the colour of his skin or the interests of his oppressors.

But in the present day we almost cease to wonder at their courage in our astonishment that others should so perversely close their eyes to the correctness of their principles. Not less ought we to wonder at the blindness of the present age in regard to the monstrous villany of the liquor traffic, and the unfathomable extent of crime resulting from it; and we take our stand upon the right of society to suppress it entirely. But in the church we take higher ground.