

prevents correspondence. Wishes have sometimes been expressed for a Canada Temperance Union or League, but with the small funds usually at the disposal of Committees, high postage stands in the way, completely preventing rapid and frequent exchange of ideas, in order to its formation on a proper basis, which might under a uniform low postage be kept up. Were such a league entered into at present, we also fear the postage would operate as a bar in the way of schemes affecting the Province as a whole, being carried promptly into effect. But our pages do not relate merely to temperance. Education and agriculture are matters which would participate largely in the benefits arising from the cheap conveyance of letters. We should be sorry if it were thought by any one that we were stepping out of our sphere to meddle with party politics. The question, however, of cheap postage, will not be considered such. When it was proposed in Great Britain, the only difference of opinion was what the amount of postage should be, all parties uniting in the desire and determination to have the thing; and even opposition-jealousy slept, until a measure so full of good to the empire became law. The first proposition of a four-pence postage was found not to answer. Nothing served the purpose of placing free communication within the reach of all but the penny, pre-paid by means of a stamp. Here, however, we do not think there will be enough of letters for some time to pay the expenses of the Post-office at a penny, but we trust the government will give a fair trial of it at two-pence within half an ounce, pre-paid, and four-pence when not pre-paid. We do not think a high rate will answer, and we wish we only had the ear of government to tell it so. The only way in which we can efficiently do this is by suggesting to the Committees of all Societies throughout the country to meet immediately, and send up a petition to the Houses of Legislature, embodying their desire to have a low uniform rate of postage, and expressing the opinion that no rate would suit the necessities of the country so well as a two-penny one, nor would a higher be likely to yield so good a revenue in the course of a year or two. It cannot be expected that a change so great, (we suppose the average postage in Canada may be about eightpence,) will be effected without at first a considerable loss to the revenue, but it is now universally admitted that it is much better to look for no surplus revenue from the postage, but that the more cheaply articles within the Post-office means of transport can be conveyed, the higher will be the amounts returned from those which are legitimately taxed in order to defray the necessary expenses of government.

There is nothing in the Governor's speech to let us know whether a reduction in the postage from the Colonies to Great Britain is contemplated. This, however, is a most important matter, and one in which every individual to whom this is an adopted country, is deeply interested. We are receiving, daily, thousands of emigrants who have left behind friends anxious to hear of their welfare; but to whom, with the exception of a single letter, if even as much, when they have got somewhat settled, they never write, because they cannot think of paying the high postage which the transmission of a letter involves. Now, surely it is desirable, that when families are thus separated, they should have the encouragement which cheap postage gives, of still continuing to be acquainted with one another. Of course we cannot expect that the postage to Great Britain should be Two Pence, but there cannot be a doubt, that a much lower rate than the present would in the long run pay better. There seems at present every probability that the exports of produce from this country to Great Britain will be very large, increasing year by

year; and, although there are differences of opinion as to whether, in certain circumstances, restriction should be placed on importation and exportation, all agree that it is bad to restrict the communication requisite for this being done so as to be mutually beneficial.

This seems somewhat like going more into commercial motives for reduction of postage than we at first intended, but this matter, though in some respects a political one, is not one of party. It is an interest of the people, and we have thus touched on it as we are aware that our pages are read by many who may not learn in any other way, that such a thing as low postage is contemplated by Government. If then there is a desire for the means of cheap postage communication, let there be conversation and agitation of the matter until it is obtained. It is well known that, in Great Britain, the idea of being able to make use of the penny postage, has induced many to learn to write in order to take advantage of it, and we have little doubt it would have its own effect here. Many a parent who has come to this country, unable either to write or cypher, will immediately see the importance of having his children taught. Knowledge will be increased, where not merely persons run to and fro, but there are facilities for sending ideas hither and thither; and in this point of view, the education of the people, the increase of knowledge, must be very much facilitated by a low rate of postage. Many a youth who has come to our shores might have been preserved from vice and misery, many a family might be still united even though "oceans rolled between," if there had not existed the sometimes fancied and sometimes real barrier of a high postage, in the former case, to the advices which a parent would have given, and in both, where the kinder feelings of our nature would have been cherished to the temporal and possibly eternal benefit of the whole.

BYTOWN JUVENILE TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

We do not know how many of those who minister at the altar in this Province are readers of our pages. We wish much their number was increased, and that we had frequent communications from them. Such we value highly, and we feel well assured that those who themselves abstain, and by their personal attendance at total abstinence meetings in their several localities, encourage the young or others who may be inexperienced in the most advantageous mode of conducting meetings, &c., enjoy an abundant reward in their own greater soundness of mind and body, and in the pleasing consciousness that their sphere of usefulness is thus increased. We think that there can be little doubt, also, that those ministers who are consistent total abstiners, and who endeavour by all prudent means to introduce the practice of abstinence amongst their people, must be freed from very many harassing cases of church discipline. Such testimony as we have heard on this matter, points to the use of intoxicating drinks as the most fruitful cause of those painful backslidings which constitute so dark a chapter in the history of the Church of Christ. Our ministerial brethren could tell many an instructive tale on this subject.

The esteemed writer of the following has our warmest thanks for his communications of progress. Bytown will be the centre of an extensive district, which will consider it as their city, and we are happy to find that it is, in this stage of its existence, to be so well leavened with the salutary influence of teetotalism.

To the Editor of the Temperance Advocate.

Bytown, 19th May, 1847.

SIR,—From your knowledge of the history and position of Bytown, I feel assured that you will be gratified to learn that the temperance reformation continues to advance in interest and moral