

the equality of crime in respect to its various manifestations, would necessitate equality of legislation concerning them all; and then all prohibitory laws must be abolished, and crime be left unimpeded. On their principles you have no more right to interfere with liquor than with velvet, or mutton chops. The least, then, that the Legislature can do, is to abolish the restrictive liquor laws, and give us free trade in grog as well as in ribbons and potatos. Of course all our readers well know that this is not what we seek or wish, but we maintain that it is the legitimate result of the argument of our enemies. To be consistent they must defend free trade in anything that can be ate, drank or worn. On the contrary, our doctrine is, that the liquor traffic stands alone in its profligacy, being in itself the fruitful source of crime and misery, and, therefore, ought to be prohibited forever. According to the sentiments of the *Gazette* and *Chronicle*, a drunkard labors under "a total abeyance of moral restraints," and, therefore, our theory is sound that the means and causes of drunkenness ought to be kept in "total abeyance" by total prohibition. Men may now plead a legal right to do that which is morally wrong. The *Edinburgh Review* has taken up this subject in another of its bearings, and lays down a principle which we regard not only as sound, but as specially applicable in the case under consideration.—"Law," says the *Review*, "ought to be made in every case, and to the utmost practical limit, coincident with the claims of moral and social equity. When this is not the case, the moral perceptions themselves become blunted; and there is scarcely any wrong which the exemption from legal liabilities, and the influence and contagion of example, may not induce the selfishness of man to suppose that he may do with as much innocence as impunity." We leave the subject with this quotation, begging the *Gazette* to digest it at his leisure.

#### Woman's Influence.

When subjects of great, and vital importance are being agitated in a country or community, the question often suggests itself to the minds of private individuals, "What is my duty?" and as the public mind is made up of individual minds, so the opinions and usages of a community are a sure index to the opinions and usages of the individuals, who make up that community. The main point, then, in resolving any great question, is to influence individual minds and hearts.

This is particularly true of the important question which is now attracting the attention of the public,—I mean the "Temperance question," and in reference to this, let every one, and especially every woman ask "What is my duty?" And, having asked, let the answer be sought for earnestly, and with prayer.

And what is duty in this case? Can any Christian woman,—nay more, can any sister, wife, or mother be long in doubt?

Is it not to discountenance in every possible way, the use of distilled liquors? Let this be done, and we shall have no need of legislating on the subject—no need of lengthened discussion—the question will be settled and our land be saved from the fearful inroads of the monster "Intemperance." Let every one do her duty nobly and fearlessly, and we shall be "a law unto ourselves."

But just as long as woman panders to the taste for stimulating beverages, even though it be in the most genteel manner, surrounded by the appliances of wealth, and the refinements of society, so long will the cause be weak and wavering—so long will fathers—husbands—brothers rush on to the drunkard's eternity of woe—so long will life be wasted, hopes blighted, and home, which should be the sanctuary of peace and happiness, be little less than a hell.

I speak warmly; it is because I feel warmly, and I believe that while men are answerable for their sins, whatever influences may surround them, yet woman has a great and fearful responsibility with reference to the influence she exerts, either directly, or indirectly on those around her.

Every woman, it is true, has not a husband; some have not a father or brother, but these cases are rare, and still rarer are those where a pure, warm-hearted woman has not some friend, on whom her smile of approval, or word of kindly, though earnest, reproof will not tell with sure and happy effect.

Let no one then take refuge behind the plea that she has no influence. A pebble dropped in mid-ocean is seemingly powerless; yet, in ever widening circles, it moves the waves from shore to shore, and so it is with our influence.

I well recollect, in conversation with a person, who was sacrificing his noble talents at the shrine of Intemperance, after I had urged him by every motive that I could bring forward, to break away from the habit which was hurrying him on to destruction, "Ah," said he, "if my sister had said to me, years ago, what you have said now, I should not have been the ruined man you see before you." I knew that sister, and knew that she had mourned over that brother's downward course, and yet lacked the courage to plead with him to retrace his steps to virtue and happiness.

We believe in the influence of others, let us not doubt our own, and not doubting, let us act on the belief. Impressed with a sense of the fearful exigencies of the case, with a just view of the miseries which the use of intoxicating drinks entails on its victims in this life, and more than all, having a firm belief in the truth of the Divine declaration, that no drunkard shall inherit the "Kingdom of God," let us not falter; and though man, with his stronger arm, must set the "Temperance Car" in motion, let us be sure that we lay no obstacles in the way of its progress.

EDLA.

Montreal, Dec. 15, 1854.

#### Feathers Fly—The Birds are Hit.

Quite a stir just now among the big dailies,—the liquor advertising commercial press. Our readers will find by our talk to the *Gazette* that the most ancient paper in Canada has been doing something in the way of denouncing the Maine Law. The *Transcript* has come out against the *Pilot*, and the *Advertiser* fights on his own hook against us, just when he feels inclined to. Very well, gentlemen, we are quite ready for you—one at a time, or all together, as you please. Our readers for 1855 will be kept quite animated, if the ammunition of the adversaries should hold out.