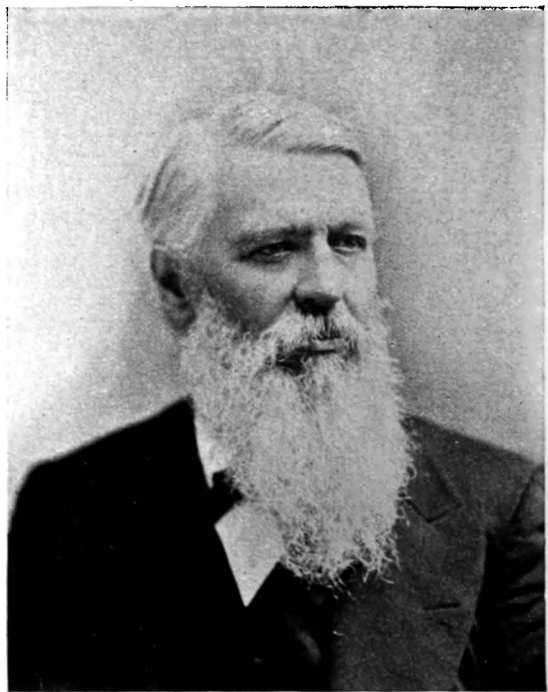


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*John B. Gump*

JOHN B. GOUGH

*The Apostle of Cold Water*

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BY

CARLOS MARTYN

*Editor of "American Reformers," and Author of  
"Wendell Phillips: the Agitator," etc., etc.*

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To  
My Wife,  
Mercedes Ferrer Martyn,  
This Book,  
Encouraged by her Counsels,  
and Pruned by her Criticisms,  
Is  
Lovingly and Gratefully  
Dedicated.

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## P R E F A C E .

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THIS is an old story retold. Mr. Gough has written and spoken so voluminously and charmingly of his life, and his career was run so continuously under the public eye that it is well nigh impossible to jot down new facts. Nor is there need of it. His experiences are so full of moral warning in his fall, and of moral inspiration in his recovery, that they will be profitably rehearsed for generations. All that any individual biographer can hope to do is to group the ascertained facts in a new setting. In the performance of this task the writer has made free use of the existing material, and here confesses his special indebtedness to Mr. Gough's own records. When other and related topics have called for treatment, other and related books have been used.

Although of English birth, we have appropriated Mr. Gough as an American reformer. He was an American citizen. His home was here. He voted here. His public career began and ended here. And his Americanism was of the most pronounced and lofty type.

John B. Gough was a man of the people—an inspired mechanic. He began life at the freezing point of the human thermometer. At the age of eighteen he fell below zero. Seven or eight years

later he rose to summer heat, and produced the flowers and fruits of summer. He maintained this heat and fertility through forty-three years, and died at sixty-nine degrees Fahrenheit. Such a life is instructive in all its phases. It carries inspiration to the poor and miserable and blind and naked.

Mr. Gough's career as a reformer was based upon his personal experience. In pleading with men and for men he obeyed Sir Philip Sydney's recipe for poetry, "Look into thine own heart, and write." His utterances were realistic because he had realized them. He touched others to smiles or tears, because he was familiar with the grotesqueness of the evil against which he inveighed, with the maudlin laughter, and the *delirium tremens* of the drunkard.

To this fundamental knowledge of his theme he joined rare powers of speech. 'Tis difficult to classify him as a public speaker. He was *sui generis*. God made him, and broke the die. He was a whole variety troupe in one little form. In the course of an address he enacted a dozen parts, with such fidelity that the last seemed the best. He told a story now in the Irish brogue, now in broken German, now in the Yorkshire dialect, and the hall was convulsed with laughter. He made an appeal, and the people were intensely stirred. His voice sank into pathos, and the storm broke in a rain of tears. He turned upon an interrupter, and his repartee blazed and burned like a flash of powder. He had that wonderful power which we call magnetism. He used the language of the people. He spoke all over, eyes as well as hands, face as well as lips, even his coat-tails. And his earnestness made him the unconscious hero

of his own cause. Mr. Gough on the platform was an histrionic exhibition of a superlative type.

His voice was not particularly sweet, but it possessed incredible power, and ran the gamut of thought and feeling,

“ From grave to gay, from lively to severe.”

In listening to him one recalled Bulwer's description of O'Connell's voice:

“ Beneath his feet the human ocean lay  
And wave on wave rolled into space away.  
Methought no clarion could have sent its sound  
Even to the center of the hosts around ;  
And, as I thought, rose the sonorous swell,  
As from some church-tower swings the silvery bell.  
Aloft and clear, from airy tide to tide  
It glided, easy as a bird may glide.  
Even to the verge of that vast audience sent,  
It played with each wild passion as it went :  
Now stirred the uproar, now the murmur stilled,  
And sobs and laughter answered as it willed.”

Is it any wonder, after all, that such a man, thus variously gifted, and with something to say worth hearing, should have held audiences breathless on both sides of the Atlantic for nearly half a century, with no diminution of his power whether to draw or to inspire ?

But Mr. Gough had other strengths besides his gifts. “ There is no eloquence,” said Emerson, “ without a man behind it.” He put an honest character behind his words. You believed in the man. It was not a mere exhibition that he gave. In the midst of his wildest utterances he maintained his balance. A

robust common sense was always dominant. And there was a high moral purpose that dignified his very mimicry.

As a temperance leader Mr. Gough has not been and will not be outgrown. He grasped the reform he advocated as Atlas did the globe. And he put it upon the indestructible basis of moral suasion, personal piety, and prohibitive law.

Have we gotten, can we get, beyond his ideal?

Two women were this reformer's guardian angels. First, his mother; when he lost her he lost himself. Next, Mary Gough; when he found her he found himself.

'Tis the purpose of the following pages to show how God made him; how drink unmade him; and how sobriety and a moral motive remade him.

CARLOS MARTYN.

CHICAGO, 1893.

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