

unrest. But what was my surprise to find my husband there before me. When I entered the supper-room, there stood my husband, giving vent to a speech in which religion, politics and obscenity each had a place. Imagine my feelings when he turned and addressed me in a tone in which drollery, mimicry and foolishness were mixed. "See here, marm, Mrs. Morton 'ere says she think I'm rather gifted for a select circle like this—has given some very judicious hints, very delicate is madame, thinks maybe you'd like to go home," and here he drawled out his words in imitation of the coaxing voice of Mrs. Morton to perfection.

Think you I went home that night to sleep? Think you, as I listened to the heavy breathing of him who had promised to protect me from the storms of life, and thought of him as wrecked or stranded upon the shoals of intemperance—think you I could have prayed for the rulers of my country? Think you I would have changed places with you? Nay—for all the honors, the homage of this world, I would not occupy a place of such responsibility unless I could put down intemperance.

"Hath the sceptre departed from Israel? Hath the God of Jacob forgotten? Can nothing be done to save my husband, must he die for the sin of his parents—must he be the victim of his country's mistake?"

"What is thy beloved more than another? Who art thou that shouldst question thy rulers? Can I see my husband ruined? Can I see my children beggared? Nay, but who art thou, a drunkard's wife? And who made that husband a drunkard? His parents. And who upheld them?"

My country's rulers who cry peace! peace!

And wave a sword high in air;

Nay more,—suspend that sword

By a single hair!

CHAPTER II.

THE MOTHER'S PRAYER ANSWERED.

It will be difficult for the reader to imagine that twenty years have passed by since the events narrated in the former chapter occurred; and that Bessie Melbourn there alluded to is now Mrs. Dunkin, and a widow.

That almost young man is her son. Of their circumstances we will judge by their conversation.