

MONTREAL, AUGUST 15, 1854.

CANADA

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE

DEVOTED TO

Total Abstinence, Legal Prohibition, and Social Progress.

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Lead us not into Temptation.

"I can take my glass, or I can leave it alone." How often is this silly boast heard, and how often have many continued to take their glass, who afterwards found to their shame and to their sorrow that they were not able to leave it alone. Some few are happy or fortunate enough to brave danger and escape it, but it is better if possible to keep out of danger's way. We copy a little story on this subject for the benefit of our readers:—

"William, you were to tell me how you managed the alligators when you were in Africa, and you may as well tell me now."

"Very well, Master Frank," said old William, (William was a shoemaker in the village, but in early life had been a servant to a gentleman, and had attended him in his travels in many parts of the world,) "you shall know all about it; and then, if you ever go to Africa yourself, you can act on the same plan."

"But first tell me how big they are."
"Oh! they are of all sizes, from a dozen inches to a dozen feet; but, by my method I can manage the biggest among them, let him be in the water or let him be out."

"I am glad of that; for, perhaps, I shall be able to manage him too."

"You would like to see an alligator's nest, I dare say; and, perhaps, to treat yourself with an egg or two."

"What! do alligators make nests and lay eggs?"
"To be sure they do. When I first went abroad to Cape Coast Castle in Western Africa, as servant to your father, I remember finding an alligator's nest made of decayed grass, leaves and weeds, closely matted together, and when I put my hand into it, it was almost as hot as a baker's oven."

"How large was the nest? and how big were the eggs?"

"The nest was made of as much as two or three cartloads of rubbish of one sort or other; and the eggs were white in color, and perhaps three or four times the size of a goose's egg. Alligators are cunning creatures."

"What do they live upon?"
"Why, to tell the truth, they are not over particular; for they take up with just what they can get—whether it be a mouthful of flies, a water-fowl, a monkey, a young antelope, or a sailor in his check shirt, blue jacket and white trowsers. In short, Master Frank, they would eat you, if they could get hold of you, without so much as asking the question whether it would be pleasant to you or not."

"I dare say they would, William; but I will take

pretty good care they do not. Now tell me how you manage them."

"I manage them the same way as I do [a rattle-snake, when I hear his rattle, and see him just ready to spring upon me."

"What, can you manage a rattlesnake, too?"
"Yes, that I can; or a cobra capella, or a boa constrictor, or any other kind of snake, even though he be big enough to swallow a tiger."

"I never heard of such a thing! I should have thought that he would have clung round your neck, and stuck his poisoned fangs into you in a minute."

"And so he would, if I did not know how to manage him. There is nothing like going the right way to work, Master Frank. If I knew at this moment that a savage tiger was in Carey wood, or that a cruel Turk with a drawn sabre was waiting for me on the Hill Common, I would sally out directly and manage them both."

"You would? Why I would not go near them for all the money you could give me. Do tell me, William, how you manage them. Do you take a blunderbuss with you?"

"Nothing of the sort. I might, perhaps, have a thin walking stick in my hand, or a light switch; but I could do without either of them."

"Now, then, please tell me without waiting another minute what your plan is?"

"Well, then, my plan is this: when I see an alligator, ten or a dozen feet long, disposed to do me a mischief, let him open his mouth as wide as he will, the very first thing that I do is—to get out of his way."

"Oh, William! William! that is too bad."
"Too bad, Master Frank! How can it be too when it is the very best way in the world?"

What e'er be the danger, by night or by day,
Snake, tiger, or Turk—I get out of the way.

But if you can acquaint me with an easier, a safer, or a better method, then I will give up mine and adopt yours."

"I thought you had some wonderful plan that required a great deal of courage."

"Courage is an excellent quality, no doubt; but wisdom and prudence are much more so. Depend upon it that, in all cases of danger, temptation, and sin, to get out of the way is the best thing that we can do. 'Lead us not into temptation' is an excellent prayer; and to fly away from temptation is an excellent practice. Oh! what misery and remorse, what repentance and despair, have been brought on mankind by their going to meet evil instead of running away from it! Think over what I have said, quietly, Master Frank; and then, very likely, you