

and was silent. In a moment the lady's pledge was thought of. "Bring me some cold water," he said, "and when I ask for trust again, I shall get it." The water was brought, and Tom drank—it was cold—clear—refreshing—

" His arm grow strong,  
Though his toil was long,  
When he drank of the cup of cold water."

Tom went home. He thought he would have *tea* that day—he was not in the habit of taking tea. His wife was surprised, but never suffered her feelings to escape. Busy and noiselessly she spread the table, blew the fire, made the refreshing and cheering cup; the little one played with the kitten, and enticingly laid it on the father's knee—talked of its pranks, and laughed in the father's face. Thomas was silent; the wife in suppressed tones hummed a tune, feeling some difficulty now and then, saying a kind word to the child—hushing his boisterous mirth, and directing some of the other children's movements. Thomas had drunk the first cup, and affected to be diverted by the sport of the little one and kitten, and, as though suddenly recollecting a some thing he had almost forgotten, he said, "Where's the lady's pledge?" The wife reached it from the mantleshelf—the second cup was poured out, and Thomas, deeply thoughtful, read and pondered the pledge, sipping between whiles his tea and biting of his bread; again the cup was emptied and again replenished, and ere it was again empty, Thomas asked, "Where is the pen and ink?" The pen and ink were handed to him, and when the last drop lingered in his cup—while all was anxiety in that dear one's breast—and after sidgitting his ear with the feathery part of the pen which he held indecisively in his hand—as though by a desperate effort, he signed the lady's pledge, and tossing it rudely across the table, he said, "*there, I'm a teetotaller!*" and from that day to this the landlord's refusal and the lady's pledge are his boast.

Ladies! you drink but little, but your hands are not clean. This lady felt her weakness—felt she was inadequate to the task of recommending what she herself had never practised; but when she had signed the pledge, then with confidence, with assurance she could say, Do as I do, and not as I say. Put yourselves in this condition—sign the pledge, and you may invite the drunkard; persevere, and you shall meet with your reward.