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Thinks I to myself, I wish I could do without so much drink, and take more of my wages home to Madge, because I know she'd make the best of it. But then, again, thinks I to myself, a man must keep himself up to his work or it's no use; and besides, one does not like to leave off what one's used to; and then, again, thinks I to myself, how I should get laughed at by our chaps!

But then, again, thinks I, "let them laugh that win,"—but I like a drop of drink, and my stomach expects it when the hour comes. Ah! and the gin too; and, thinks I to myself, my stomach would not look for it if it did not do it good; and yet so much of this drink pinches us all so that we have no money for nothing.

Well! while I was cogitating about this, I saw against the wall a large printed bill, "A meeting of members and friends of the Temperance Society will take place," so and so. Then, thinks I to myself, I'll be there too, and here what it's all about.

I took care to be there to the hour exact. Well! thinks I to myself, this is a shabby sort of a meeting too! Why here's not above half a dozen of us altogether. Well, presently a few more came in, and very soon a man got up and began. He said, that three-fourths of the crime, and poverty, and wretchedness, and misery, that was in the country, was from drunkenness. Thinks I to myself, it cannot be so bad as that neither. He went on to tell us that the spirits drank in these kingdoms in every year, would fill a river five miles long, sixty yards wide, and three feet deep: here I stared with all my eyes. He continued, "Now," says he, "inquire into the case of the first object of wretchedness which you meet, and it's three to one but you find it occasioned, directly or indirectly, by intemperance. It occasions, on the lowest calculation, one half of the cases of madness; it is as unparring as death; it levels all ranks, all ages, and all conditions. It is like the horse-leech, never satisfied. 'Give, give, give!'" Thinks I to myself, it's well our Madge is not here, for that's what she says of the ale-house, that it's always "Give, give, give!" Well, so he went on, and told us, that if a man began at twenty-one years of age, to lay by four shillings a week, instead of spending it unnecessarily in drink, that at thirty-one he would have £ 130 15 1½

At 51 735 14 1½
At 71 2,296 0 4¼

That is, supposing he kept putting it out to interest at the end of every year, and adding the interest to it. Thinks I to myself, I never should have thought it.

THE REFLECTIONS OF A WORKING MAN.

Thinks I to myself, as I sat by the fire the other night, my Madge sitting by me, I have thrown away a good deal of time one way or other on public affairs, and it is high time now to attend to my own; so I told Madge my mind and my determination to put our own matters right.

"Ah!" says Madge, "that's sooner said than done, John. I've all along thought that there were many matters in doors, as well as out of doors, that wanted righting; it was of no use for me to speak, when I saw your head was so full about other people's affairs. I always thought there was sadly too much of your week's wages went in drink; and then that gin! I don't like that gin!"

Thinks I to myself, Madge is right, but I don't know which way to begin to mend it. Let me see, there's 1½d. and 2d. is 3½d., and 2d. is 5½d., and 2d. is 7½d., and 2d. is 9½d., and 1½d. is 11d. That's for one day, and then there's seven days in a week, that's 7s. all but 7d., that's 6s. 5d. Then on Sunday I don't spend above 6d., because Madge will have me to go to church; well that's 6s. per week.

Thinks I to myself, 6s. a week is a good deal, and some working men that I hear of, don't get that altogether; but, then, I've a good place of work as times go, and I get pretty good wages, and there's many a man who drinks more than I do, and our's is hard work, and a man that works hard must have something; and yet, thinks I to myself, I mayn't always have a good place, and good wages, and if I now spend all that I get, what's to become of us if I get out of work, or anything of that sort?