

## ANNIE SMITH AND HER PLEDGE-BOOK.

EVERY member of the Band of Hope should have a pledge-book, and they should have it always in readiness; so that at a moment's notice they may receive the pledge of any of their companions and friends.

The little girl that I am going to tell you about was one of those girls who believe that as it is a good thing for themselves to be teetotalers, it is also good for other people.

If you were to look at Annie, I am certain you would say that she is a picture of cleanliness and order. When she came to our tea-meeting the other day dressed in her new pink dress, with her temperance medal fastened on her breast, and her hair neatly tied with scarlet ribbon, every one thought that she did credit to our noble temperance cause, and to the loving hands of her dear mother who had spent so much time in making her look so beautiful.

I am happy to tell you that Annie has something far better to recommend her than a pretty face and a new dress. She has kind and gentle ways, a soft loving voice, and a sweet temper that bears patiently the unkind words which are sometimes addressed to her. We all love Annie, because she wants to *work* for the Band of Hope. She is not so selfish as to enjoy the happy meetings all to herself; but she loves to bring her school-companions, and she is delighted when she can persuade them to sign the pledge.

I remember one day she came to me at the close of the meeting, and in a very loving way she said, "Please, sir, can I have a pledge-book?" "Why, Annie," I replied, "what can you do with a pledge-book? I am afraid you will bring it back quite empty." "But if I speak kindly, sir," she said, "it's very likely I shall get some name; I'll try very hard, sir." Annie took home the pledge-book, and in less than a week she had four signatures as rewards for her

labours. Week by week passed on till at last the book was filled; and when she returned it to me without a single blank line, I felt that Annie was a model for all Band of Hope girls. I suppose you wonder how it was that Annie succeeded so well with her pledge-book. The first reason is, that Annie does not forget to ask God in the morning to help her during the day to get some fresh names to the temperance pledge. Then she always carries the book with her when she goes among her friends, and tries never to miss an opportunity to lay the claims of temperance before her friends. She always speaks softly, and so kindly that no one can help listening to her. Annie never scolds her companions, or thinks ill of them because they are not members of the Band of Hope; she feels certain that it is better to persuade than to compel. Besides this, Annie often gives up little pleasures, so that she may get names in her pledge-book. Sometimes when a poor girl signs the pledge, and can't afford to pay a penny for a card, Annie will buy her a card with the penny which her father often gives her, or she will save up her pence and buy a ticket for the tea-meeting for some poor child, and thus help on the good work.

Would you like, my little reader, to be useful in helping us to do away with strong drink and all the misery it brings? Try to have a pledge-book in your house, and take it with you among your friends and companions. You know some one who is in danger of becoming a drunkard, try to save that one; try to bring that one to the Band of Hope; speak kindly and lovingly, and if you are earnest in your prayer to God, depend upon it you shall soon have your pledge-book full of names, and your heart full of joy.

If the children will all unite, the victory of temperance is certain.

Cousin ALFRED.