

# THE LIFE BOAT.

CADET PLEDGE.—I do solemnly promise that I will not make, buy, sell, or use as a beverage, any Spirituous or Malt Liquors, Wine or Cider, and that I will abstain entirely from the use of Tobacco in any form, so long as I am a member of this Order, &c. &c.

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## Introductory.

### SAYING A.

A wild urchin having been sent to one of the parish schools in Scotland, the Dominie after a while brought him a primary lesson book, and finding he did not even know his letters began to tell him their names.

This is A ; this is B, &c.

Now what is the first ?

Dinna ken.

Well it is called A. Now what is it called ?

Dinna ken.

A, again said the master. Now what is it ?

Dinna ken.

You do, sir. Say A.

But the fellow would not utter the sound, and as a consequence got a whacking. After school the other lads came round him asking, "what for did na ye say Aw, you fule, ye wad hae saved a whipping."

"Ay," said he, "I kent vera weel that if I hae said Aw he wad hae mad me say B."

Yet no doubt the poor fellow found afterward that he had to say both Aw and B, and the rest.

Now we have found many persons

who, with reference to other matters, are in the position of this urchin ; they won't say A for fear of having to say B. In relation to temperance, many are fully persuaded that if they openly admit what they more than suspect to be true, they will necessarily be compelled to adopt the whole scheme, hence the frivolous excuses which are put forward by persons whose own judgment would not be satisfied with them in respect to subjects affecting their business, &c.

It is one of the most paradoxical—and we might say anomalous—things in the world, how a sensible man can pretend to be favorable, to be a *friend* of the temperance movement, and yet practically oppose its progress. Every one that knows A from B, knows that the old *moderate* or partial pledge was a failure, and that the triumphs of the cause are due to the total abstinence principle. What then can be said of the *friendship* which approves a course and runs counter to it ?

There is an expressive word which would describe it, but we forbear, and in preference make use of one which,