

Nan's Story.

TOLD IN THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

"Toll a story!" says you. Wait a bit. Let me see:
It was Christmas. The shops was all bright
With holly an' flags, as a gell, dressed
in rags,
Who'd been starin' at sight after
sight,
Turn'd to creep home away as the
evenin' fell grey,
An' the lamps was beginnin' to light.
Nan, they called her. She'd got a
good mother, like mine,
Though more pale-like, an' sickly,
an' an';
An' a father, but he warn't as kind as
might be
To his wife, and the gell that they
had.
He was goin' to drink, an' sometimes,
as I think,
It driv' 'im' an' crazy an' mad.
Well, this Nan hurried home to the
garret she knowed
Would be fireless an' bitter with
cold;
But no mother was there when she
climbed the steep stair,
An' so, feelin' quite weary and old,
She strayed down just as far as the
Pelican bar
That was shinin' with green an' with
gold.
There was plenty of loafers a-standin'
outside,
An' the public was full to the brim;
Then above all the noise comes the
sound of a voice
As she knowed was belongin' to
him:
An' she catches a sight of a face worn
an' white,
With sad eyes, that long cryin' made
dim.
It was mother persuading of Dad to
come 'ome.
"Don't she wish she may get him!"
says one;
"Hullo, mate, hullo! 'Ere's a bit of a
row!"
Close in, an' let's look at the fun!"
But Nan wriggles before, and gits
close the door
As the chucked ones come out with
a run.
An' the fust was her Dad, reg'lar orful
an' mad,
An' offerin' to mill all the lot;
An' her mother was there, with torn
bonnet an' hair
That was loosed from its trim tidy
knot.
Seems her prayers made him worse, for
he turned with a curse
An' struck at her, heavy an' hot!
Then the people cried "shame!" and
he bade 'em come on,
For to tackle the crowd he was fain;
Then this Nan feels her heart begin
thumpin' right smart,
An' forgittin' her fear in her pain,
Rushes in, grabs his knees, an' cries
'Daddy, oh please,
Don't ye go to hit mother again!
"For 'tis Christmas!" she cries, an' looks
up in his eyes,
As he clenched his big fist for a
blow;
Then—the lights seemed to whirl and
the big world to twirl
As a roundabout spins at a show.
She was down in the street, 'midst the
trampin' feet,
An' the freeze of the half-melted
snow.
Oh, to sleep in the cold, to wake up in
the warm
Of a beautiful lily-white bed!
With a tall gent an' grand to be hold-
ing your hand,
"An' a kind lady bathing your head!"
'Twas wot happened to Nan. When
to speak she began,
"Is this Heaven?" was the first
thing she said.
An' the gentleman smiled at the poor
little gell:
"No, my child; this ain't Heaven,"
says he;
"But a place where they cure the sick
children wot's poor,
And everything's gratis and free,
You've a cut on your head, and your
leg's broke," he said,
"But we'll mend it, as quick as may
be!"
An' she slept by-an'-by, and there came
such a dream
Of an angel in velvets and fur;
But without any wings, who brought
beautiful things,
[Sweets an' playthin's an' pictures to
her]
An' spoke of the love as came down
from above,
In a way was like music to yer!
Then she lifted her eyes an' most
shrieked in surprise

For mother was standin' just here—
Lookin' down at her Nan with a smile
as began
As a smile, an' left of in a tear.
O, she never had knowed how the
longin' had growed
To see the dear face till 'twas near!

An' she put out her arms, an' they
hugged there a bit,
Was there ever a meetin' more glad?
Then says Nan, "Will you take, for
your little gell's sake,
Just abit of a message to Dad!
He's real sorry, I know, that he hurted
me so.
For it's only in drink that he's bad!"
"An' I wish he was here in this beau-
tiful place,
Where all trouble an' worrit seems
o'er;
For no more he'd speak rough, or get
drunk on the stuff!
That the gin shops sells cheap to the
poor!"
Then she turns her head round, an' her
'art giv' a bound,
Dad was standin' just inside the
door!
An' he draws his sleeve over his face,
an' comes near,
An' stoops over the cot where she
lies.
An' he lugs from his coat a new dolly
dressed out
In the fashion, with starin' blue
eyes!
"You'll forgive me, my kid, for the
wrong that I did,
For I never meant to hurt ye!" he
cries.
"An' your mother an' me we've made
up, gal," says he,
"An' I've promised to wipe out the
stain
Of the black by-gone years, w' their
hunger and tears,
An' I'll strive to with might an'
with main
For the pledge I have took, an' swore
hard on the book,
That I'll never touch liquor again!"

There's the end of the tale, sir. It's
long an' I'm tired,
Though I wasn't when first I began
The adventures to tell of a poor little
gell
Like myself, to a grand gentleman.
Here's my doll: see her dress? Laws
a me! Can't you guess!
I'm her—that identical Nan!
—Illustrated London Truth.

A Fearful Boa-Constrictor.

A few years ago a noted wild-beast
tamer gave a performance with his pets in
one of the leading London theatres. He
took lions, tigers, leopards and hyenas
through their part of the entertainment,
awing the audience by his wonderful
nerve and his control over them. As a
closing act of the performance, he was to
introduce an enormous boa-constrictor,
thirty-five feet long. He had bought it
when it was two or three days old, and for
twenty-five years he had handled it daily,
so that it was considered perfectly harm-
less and completely under his control. He
had seen it grow from a tiny reptile, which
he often carried in his bosom, into a fear-
ful monster.

The curtain rose upon an Indian wood-
land scene. The weird strains of an Ori-
ental band steal through the trees. A
rustling noise is heard, and a huge serpent
is seen winding its way through the under-
growth. It stops. Its head is erect.
Its eyes sparkle, its whole body seems ani-
mated. A man emerges from the heavy
foliage. Their eyes meet. The serpent
quails before the man,—man is victor.
The serpent is under the control of a mas-
ter. Under his guidance and direction it
performs a series of frightful feats. At a
signal from the man it slowly approaches
him, and begins to coil its heavy folds
around him. Higher and higher do they
rise, until man and serpent seem blended
into one. Its hideous head is reared aloft
above the mass. The man gives a little
scream, and the audience unite in a thun-
derous burst of applause, but it freezes
upon their lips. The trainer's scream was
a wail of death agony. Those cold, slimy
folds had embraced him for the last time.
They had crushed the life out of him, and
the horror-stricken audience heard bone
after bone crack, as those powerful folds
tightened upon him. Man's plaything
had become his master. His slave for
twenty-five years had now enslaved him.

In this horrible incident is portrayed
the whole story of intemperance. The
man who has taken the first glass of in-
toxiating liquor has the boa of intemper-
ance in his bosom. If he throttles the
monster now, it is easily done. But if he
permits it to live, feeds and nourishes it,
he may control it for even twenty-five
years, but it is continually growing. And
some day its soul-destroying folds will en-
circle his soul, and bear it to those regions
of woe "where the worm dieth not and
the fire is not quenched."—*Jesus*.

The Canada Temperance Act.

RESULTS OF THE VOTING SO FAR:

PLACE	VOTES POLLED		MAJORITIES		DATE OF ELECTION.
	For	Against	For	Against	
Fredericton, N.B. (1)	403	294	209		Oct. 31, 1878
Yuk, N.B. (1)	122	214	107		Dec. 28, "
Prince, P. E. I. (1)	176	271	141		" 28, "
Charlottetown, N. B.	867	149	718		Mar. 14, 1879
Albert, N. B.	1215	69	1146		Apr. 21, "
Charlottetown, P. E. I. (1)	718	114	604		" 21, "
King's, P. E. I.	837	253	584		" 24, "
Lambton, Ont. (1)	1076	59	1017		May 29, "
King's, N. B.	2507	312	2195		" 29, "
Queen's, N. B.	798	245	553		June 23, "
Westmorland, N. B. (1)	315	181	134		July 3, "
Megantic, Que.	1082	299	783		Sept. 11, "
Northumberland, N. B.	372	841	469		" 11, "
Stanstead, Que. (1)	875	673	202		" 2, 1880
Quebec, P. E. I.	760	941	181		June 21, "
Marquette, Manitoba.	1317	99	1218		Sept. 22, "
Digby, N. S.	612	105	417		" 27, "
Queen's, N. S.	944	42	902		Nov. 8, "
Sunbury, N. B.	763	82	681		Jan. 3, 1881
Shelburne, N. S.	170	41	129		Feb. 17, "
Lagar, Manitoba.	807	164	643		Mar. 17, "
Hamilton, Ont.	247	120	127		Apr. 7, "
King's, N. S.	1661	2811	1150		" 13, "
Hallam, Ont. (1)	1478	108	1370		" 14, "
Annapolis, N. S.	1183	1402	81		" 19, "
Wentworth, Ont.	1111	114	997		" 19, "
Colchester, N. S.	1611	2209	698		" 22, "
Cape Breton, N. S.	1418	184	1234		May 13, "
Hants, N. S.	1011	210	801		Aug. 11, "
Wolland, Ont.	739	92	647		Sept. 15, "
Lambton, Ont. (2)	1082	92	990		Nov. 10, "
Inverness, N. S.	1610	2378	768		" 29, "
Pictou, N. S.	2857	2963	105		Jan. 6, 1882
St. John, N. B. (1)	900	106	854		" 9, "
Fredericton, N. B. (2)	1555	483	1102		Feb. 23, "
Cumberland, N. S.	1074	1076	2		Oct. 26, "
Prince, P. E. I. (2)	263	252	41		" 25, 1883
Yarmouth, N. S.	1560	202	1298		Feb. 7, 1884
Oxford, Ont.	2939	1065	1874		Mar. 7, "
Arthursburg, Que.	1287	90	1191		" 20, "
Westmorland, N. B. (2)	4073	3298	775		July 17, "
Halton, Ont. (2)	1487	235	1252		Aug. 14, "
Simcoe, Ont.	1701	73	1628		Sept. 9, "
Stanstead, Que. (2)	1947	1767	180		Oct. 9, "
Charlottetown, P. E. I. (2)	6712	4629	1183		" 9, "
Dundas, Stormont, and	1300	975	325		" 16, "
Glengary, Ont.	755	715	40		" 16, "
Peel, Ont.	4590	2884	1706		" 18, "
Bruce, Ont.	1805	1099	194		" 23, "
Huron, Ont.	4501	3189	1312		" 30, "
Dufferin, Ont.	5957	4304	1653		" 30, "
Prince Edward, Ont.	1904	1109	795		" 30, "
York, N. B. (2)	1528	1653	125		" 30, "
Renfrew, Ont.	1178	655	523		Nov. 7, "
Norfolk, Ont.	1748	1018	730		" 11, "
Compton, Que.	2781	1694	1087		" 26, "
Brant, Ont.	1132	1620	488		Dec. 11, "
Brantford, Ont.	1690	1088	602		" 11, "
Leeds and Grenville, Ont.	848	812	106		" 18, "
Kent, Ont.	5068	4384	674		Jan. 15, 1885
Lanark, Ont.	4368	1975	2393		" 15, "
Lennox & Addington, Ont.	2437	2027	406		" 15, "
Brome, Que.	2047	2011	36		" 15, "
Quebec, Ont.	1224	739	485		" 15, "
Carlton, Ont.	694	526	168		" 22, "
D'Am & N'hamland, O.	2440	1747	693		" 29, "
Drummond, Que.	6060	3863	2197		Feb. 26, 1886
Elgin, Ont.	1190	170	1020		Mar. 5, "
Lambton, Ont. (3)	4814	3335	1479		" 19, "
St. Thomas, Ont.	4458	1846	2612		" 19, "
Misissquoi, Que.	754	743	11		" 19, "
Wellington, Ont.	1142	1107	25		" 19, "
Chicoutimi, Que.	4516	3086	1430		Apr. 2, "
Kingston, Ont.	1167	629	538		" 9, "
Frontenac, Ont.	786	839	53		May 21, "
Lincoln, Ont.	578	60	518		" 21, "
Perth, Ont.	2080	1490	670		June 18, "
Middlesex, Ont.	3348	3636	168		" 18, "
Guysboro', N. S.	5745	2370	3375		" 18, "
Hastings, Ont.	280	21	239		" 26, "
Haldimand, Ont.	2289	2451	162		July 2, "
Ontario, Ont.	1755	2063	308		" 16, "
Victoria, Ont.	3412	2061	1351		" 16, "
Peterborough, Ont.	2492	1477	1015		" 16, "
Fredericton, N. B. (3)	1915	1507	411		Sept. 24, "
St. Catharines, Ont.	298	286	13		Nov. 12, "
Russell & Prescott, Ont.	478	1065	587		" 19, "
Argenteuil, Que.	1335	3131	1796		" 26, "
Pontiac, Que.	528	601	75		Dec. 29, "
St. John, N. B. (2)	633	935	402		Jan. 28, 1886
Portland, N. B.	1610	1087	77		Apr. 19, "
St. John, N. B.	667	820	147		" 19, "
Charlottetown, P. E. I. (3)	398	373	25		" 20, "
Westmorland, N. B. (3)	689	669	20		Nov. 24, 1887
Halton, Ont. (3)	2464	1698	766		Feb. 16, 1888
			198		Mar. 1, "

N. B.—In the preceding table a place that has voted more than once has the different votes indicated by the figures (1), (2), (3) after the name of place. Figures printed in italics are for first or second votes in places in which a 3rd vote has been taken than that so printed. Names in heavy faced type are of cities, others of counties.

SUMMARY.

Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which thirteen counties have adopted the Act.
New Brunswick has fourteen counties and two cities, of which ten counties and two cities have adopted the Act.
Manitoba has five counties and one city, of which two counties have adopted the Act.
Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act.
Ontario has thirty-eight counties and union of counties and eleven cities, of which twenty-five counties and two cities have adopted the Act; one of these has repealed it.
Quebec has fifty-six counties and four cities, five counties of which have adopted the Act.
British Columbia has five parliamentary constituencies, none of which have adopted the Act.
In all, up to the present time, 81 cities and counties have voted upon the Scott Act, and 63 have adopted it. Nine counties and cities voted twice and 5 three times, making an aggregate of 95 contests, out of which we have been victorious in 73.
The aggregate votes cast in all the contests, except Halton (3), have been:—
For the Scott Act..... 164792
Against "..... 114206
Net Scott Act majority..... 50586
If we omit all voting but the last, in those places which have voted more than once we get the following as the latest vote:—
For the Scott Act..... 147226
Against "..... 102568
Net majority..... 44658

It is more than eight years since the Scott Act was first voted upon and adopted in different localities, and ONLY ONE COUNTY HAS YET REPEALED IT, although many votings have taken place on the question of repeal.

Thanking God and Taking Courage.

BY REV. CHARLES GARNETT.

When Paul was nearing Rome, he was met by a number of the Christians from the city, and their presence and sympathy so cheered him that he wrote to them, "He thanked God and took courage." This ought to be true of every abstainer on this joyous New Year's day. There have been many things in the past year to make us grateful, but nothing has gladdened my own heart so much as the agreement of all the voluntary churches in the land to advise their ministers to select Sunday, November 27, for a denunciation of our national sin and curse, intemperance. This agreement forms one of those landmarks which show the rapid progress of the temperance movement in this country. It is said that the missionaries who have been longest in India are the most sanguine as to the final and complete triumph of Christianity in that vast region, and certainly the oldest abstainers are the most sanguine as to the speedy triumph of temperance. The reason is clear. Those who have been long working for a cause, must of necessity be best acquainted with the difficulties which have been overcome, and are therefore the best qualified to estimate its progress. It is so, peculiarly with regard to the temperance movement. At the outset everything was against the temperance workers. They had all our difficulties, and none of our encouragements. Yet amid storms and tempests they dug the soil and planted the seed which is now bearing such a promising crop. They labored, and we entered into their labors. It may assist to promote our gratitude, and strengthen our faith, if we "remember the way in which the Lord hath led us." As we look back we shall see that at the outset everything was hostile to the temperance movement.

Public opinion was dead against it. Intoxicating drink was regarded as a necessary of life, and those who refused to drink it were told that they must take it or die.

The habits and customs of society were against it. Drink was associated with every act of men's lives, and was regarded as the symbol of friendship, loyalty, and religion.

Science was a most determined enemy. Doctors declared that it was indispensable both in health and sickness, and that to abstain was madness.

The Church denounced Total Abstinence as the foe of God and men, and from many a pulpit they were declared to be Christians, or infidels, or both. Indeed so thoroughly was this believed, that the impression remains in some minds to this day that at the outset Total Abstinence was a Godless movement, and hence we hear some of our younger adherents talking about their having originated "Gospel Temperance"! The fact is, it was a religious movement from the very first. I know most of the early Abstainers intimately, and I gladly testify that there was not an infidel amongst them; nearly all of them were hearty Methodists, and Methodism has been the backbone of the movement all the way through. True, many of the early Abstainers were not members of the Church, but they were driven out, and kept out, by those who did not understand them.

The State did all in its power to frustrate the movement. The Government seem to have regarded the drink traffic as a Divine institution for raising the revenue, and it protected and favored it accordingly.

These were some of the difficulties which met the workers at the outset, but they had faith in God, and faith in the truth which God had revealed to them, and through evil report and good report they toiled on, and God made them to triumph in every place. Now all is changed, and as some of us look back we are as those that dream. We joyously say, "God hath done great things for us whereof we are glad."

We have corrected public opinion, and now all classes admit that we are right.

We have greatly changed the habits and customs of society. Men now meet for friendship, business, politics, or religion, and no drink is seen. If a man dines at a hotel, and says he takes water, it causes no surprise. Vast gatherings respond to the toast of "The Queen" and "The clergy and ministers of all denominations," without any of them disappearing under the table as in days of yore.

We have educated Science, and every doctor, whose opinion is worth paying for, has relegated alcohol to its right place among the poisons.

We have converted the Church. Every Church in the land has now its own Temperance organization, and there is a holy rivalry among the Churches as to which shall do most to extend our principles.

We have shaken the drink traffic to the centre. Fifty years ago it was supreme. Founded upon appetite, buttressed by interest, defended by science, blessed by the Church, and patronized by every body, it said, "My mountain standeth sure, I shall never be moved." To-day all is changed. Science brands it as an impure, the State treats it as a ticket of leave man, and is hesitating whether it shall renew its license, so that its existence is evidently only a question of time.

If, then, in the last fifty years, temperance has made such progress with everything against it, what may we not expect in the next fifty years with everything in its favor? The decision is in our own hands. Let us realize the tremendous interest involved, and give ourselves heartily to our work; and the blessings of heaven and earth will be our reward. — *Methodist Temperance Magazine*.

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