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## A Brief Narrative of a Reformed Inebriate.

[ORIGINAL.]

I was born in the town of C——, in the County of E——, England, of respectable and pious parents, my mother being at the time of my birth, and for several years afterwards, a leading member of the Wesleyan Methodists. At an early age I was sent to school, where, by my good conduct, I attained the post of General Monitor, a distinction of no mean estimation among the boys of the school. I was now about thirteen years of age, when a gentleman of the town, a respectable book-seller and stationer, applied to the school-master for a lad he could recommend, as an apprentice. My master immediately communicated to me the intelligence, and desired me to inform my parents likewise, for their approval; I need not add that their consent was given with pleasure, as their circumstances were very straitened, and I was shortly afterwards apprenticed, and placed behind the counter of this worthy man.

I believe, at the time of which I write, there was not a Temperance Society in existence, and it was customary for all classes of the community to use more or less of alcoholic drinks. My parents usually kept beer and other liquors, which were considered, at that time, as necessary to existence as bread. They very seldom used spirits when by themselves, but in company they were considered indispensable; and even children used to receive drink from the hands of their pious parents, accompanied with such remarks as the following, "drink my dear, it will do you good"—"it will make you grow"—"it will nourish you"—sometimes almost forcing them to take it against their inclination, and all this was done with the purest of motives, with a full conviction that it was for their benefit. I had been with my master now about two years, and was beloved by him and his family, and had made good progress in the business, so much so, that I was frequently left in sole charge. This was the happiest period of my life,—beloved by my master—the delight of my parents—and respected by a numerous circle of friends. Alas! little did I dream that my happiness was so near a close, and that a beloved and tender mother, the sincere friend, the pious and zealous Christian, one who, by her intellectual endowments and strict integrity, had gained for herself the good will and respect, not only of her own sex and sect, but of every one who had the pleasure of her acquaintance,—little did I dream that this beloved parent was fast progressing to intemperance, and would in a short time become an habitual drunkard. Such dear readers was the case. From the moderate use she became a drunkard, was finally expelled the society of Christians, of which she had so long been the ornament, and after being debarred from all ordinary means of procuring liquors, had recourse to the pawn-brokers, until almost every disposable article of household furniture and wearing apparel was pawned. In short, my once happy home was rendered so miserable and intolerable by her drinking propensities, that I was finally driven from it, and eventually entered the army. Thus were my prospects in life blighted—connexions lost—friends deserted—and one who had every prospect of becoming a useful member of society entirely ruined, and by what? this accursed Alcohol—the bane—the ruin—the death of

thousands. My readers will readily conclude, that what had been so injurious to my peace and prospects, would have been a sufficient warning to prevent me from ever tasting liquors, but, alas! such was not the case. After my enlistment I remained in London a considerable time, and for a long time was proof against the excesses with which the metropolis so much abounds; but I very soon forgot the cause of my leaving home, and eventually fell into excesses. But although I have been called upon frequently to witness scenes the most deplorable and heart-rending, I escaped in my own person, some of the severe penalties which it is frequently found necessary to inflict on delinquents.

I had now been from home about six years, when I received a letter announcing my father's death. I was shortly after ordered for foreign service, and finally embarked at Deptford, for Portugal, on the 15th Dec., 1826, where we arrived after a pleasant voyage of sixteen days. Were I to endeavour to recount the many heart-rending scenes I individually witnessed, occasioned by the too free use of alcohol, during our short stay of fifteen months in this country, with its melancholy effects, it would far exceed my limits; suffice it to say, that the severest denuncements were issued by the authorities against drunkenness, and carried into effect upon offenders, when, at the same time, our Government were holding out to our men every inducement to drink, by supplying each man daily with one pint of wine, except such as were punished for drunkenness, whose allowance was limited to half a pint for several days, in addition to other punishment. Nor was this the worst of the system, the company's wine being drawn, it was issued to each man individually: now many men did not drink their ration wine, some would perhaps drink a small quantity only, from motives of temperance; others would not touch it, not because they were temperate men, but because they were going to the town to wine houses to drink, and if they drank their wine in barracks, in addition to what they might drink in the town, they would be fearful of getting drunk too early in the day, therefore, it became an every day occurrence for those who were going out, not to drink their ration wine, and they would say, "here take this Bill, Jack, or whatever their more intimate comrades names might be, and drink it, as you are not going out. Now I will leave my readers to judge what could be the result of such a system. Many may say that a soldiers allowance would not go far in purchasing wines, but in that country 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 2d. would purchase a quart; no wonder then, that drunkenness should so much prevail in our army, where liquors were so easy of access. I could relate individual instances of young men of most respectable connexions, and education; men who, but for their attachment to alcoholic drinks, would have proved bright ornaments to the profession, by their abilities and conduct, when not under the influence of drink; but when under its degrading influence, would stoop to the meanest artifices, to supply their craving thirst. I must necessarily pass over many years, which to mention would only be a repetition of what has already been stated, with the exception of receiving several letters from my mother, the two last of which teemed with the most pious exhortations, which rejoiced me very much, to think she had re-