

about the man were now raised, though they were still very weak; and encouraging him to abide by his good resolution, I left him.

"A year passed, and I revisited the town. Of course, my first thought was, what had become of Charley Brown. Often had I reflected about my first visit, and my one convert; and I wondered whether a character so desperate could by this or any other means be made good for anything. Charley being what is called a 'notorious character' in the town, I had no difficulty in finding him out, though he had removed to another quarter. I knocked at his door and was admitted. Could I believe my eyes? Was this clean and contented looking woman the same whom, wretched and ragged, I had visited in the drunkard's home in — street but a short time ago? Were these healthy children the same that I had seen, peevish and dirty, sprawling on the mud floor of the old beggar's hovel? It was indeed so! The woman sprang to me with a 'God bless you, sir! God bless you!' and shook me cordially by the hand. Oh, how much we owe you, sir—come in, come in!"

"The woman's eyes sparkled with pleasure. She could not do too much for me—offered me the best chair to sit down upon—insisted I should have tea and cake—that I must wait until Charley came in—he would be back presently; and I was resolved to see him, for already I saw clearly enough that the cure was fairly at work, and that the drunken convert had unexpectedly proved a good and true man.

"Of course, I enquired the cause of the immense improvement which I saw everywhere around me, in the wife and children, in the furniture of the dwelling, and in the air of comfort which prevailed the

place. The story was soon told. Charley had kept the pledge. It was a terrible struggle with him at first; but he was a man of strong will and great force of purpose; so he persevered—gave up his former acquaintances and stuck to his work. You know Charley is a capital workman—the best boot-maker in the place, sir. So the wages came in on Saturday nights regular. We soon redeemed our furniture and eight-day clock, which lay in pledge; bought better food and better clothes; and a month or two since we removed to this better house. We have now all that we need to make us comfortable; and if Charles perseveres, by God's blessing, we shall be an honor to the cause in this place, sir. Only last night Charles was speaking of sending the youngest boy to school, where the others already are; and then we shall be all in the way of becoming wiser and better. Oh, sir, it was a blessed day for us, that which brought you to this place, and led Charles to 'ake that pledge. It has been the making of us all.' And the tears were now standing full in her eyes, and dropping down her cheeks. For me, I was quite overcome by her story, and felt more encouraged to persevere in the work than ever I had done before.

"Charley soon made his appearance; he had been carrying home some of his work. The alteration was so great in his appearance that I could scarcely have recognized him: he was clean and well dressed; and on conversing with him I found him intelligent and manly—really a fine-hearted fellow at bottom, though his better qualities as a man had so long been obscured and blighted by the accursed drink. We had some delightful conversation together, and the upshot of it was that a teetotal meeting was