

Neb never knew how those few words spoken for the Master brought the wanderer into the fold; but they did. "God is waiting for you—*waiting for you*—WAITING FOR YOU!" How the words haunted him until he turned about and grasped the outstretched hand!

Little Mollie Neb's only girl, was amazed and shocked when her father, after relating a pitiful story of a man who drank desperately, and abused his wife and treated his children cruelly, and slept in the gutter, informed her soberly that he was the one who had been that miserable, shiftless drunkard.

"Why, papa," asked Mollie, wiping the tears from her eyes with her clean, white apron, "how could that ugly old drunkard have got changed into you?"

"Because of daddy's prayers," Neb answered.

"But, papa, you said Pete and Neb and Dan were all rags, and mother too. How could you get all their good, clean clothes, and this nice house and pretty yard, and my bed of pinks?"

"Daddy's prayers brought them all."

"But your eyes, papa—I can't see how they could change. You said they were red and watery, and how could they get to be so clean and black and shining?" asked inquisitive Mollie; and Neb answered, with a smile which revealed his strong white teeth, "Daddy's prayers."

#### Mr. Robert Graham.

MR. ROBERT GRAHAM, to whom we alluded in last month's *Son of Temperance*, was born at Haltwhistle, Northumberland, on May 12th, 1829. Descended from a race of teachers well known in the North for literary culture, he was engaged for many years in the same profession, and went to Manchester in 1872 to take charge of an important school there. From early manhood he had taken an intense interest in the temperance cause, and before he became connected with the Church of England Temperance Society he delivered in-

numerable addresses to audiences of all grades of receptive capacity on the various phases of the movement, before the question became so widely recognized or so well understood as it now is. Mr. Graham very speedily made his mark as a platform advocate of temperance principles; this singular and invariable success especially with large working-class audiences, made him in a short time a real power in the society.

In 1872 the Church of England Temperance Society was first established on the double basis, the country being divided into two Provinces, that in the North of England, embracing eleven dioceses and comprising, of course, all the great manufacturing centres. It was whilst almost on the threshold of its great career of usefulness that Mr. Graham joined the society as General Secretary for the Northern Province. Those at the head of affairs saw that a man was much needed to take the helm who possessed qualities seldom combined in one individual. The Secretary from the very nature of the responsibility—the leading spirit of so great an organization—needed to be a man of platform ability, administrative capacity, vigour, earnestness, and tact. It was imperative that he should possess an intimate knowledge of the machinery and organization of the Church, and a belief in its power. In addition to this it was necessary that he should be bold yet prudent; conciliatory without being weak, and content if needed, to fight on against apathy and misrepresentation.

The Executive of the C. E. T. S. thought they saw in Mr. Graham a man answering all their requirements, and in 1873 he was offered and accepted the General Secretaryship for the Northern Province. The history of the society since that period is the best tribute to Mr. Graham's worth, for in six years he created an interest in and extended the operations of the society from one end of the Province to the other. Out of chaos he made order and method;

he changed lukewarmness into vigour and activity, and has so far perfected the organization of the Northern Province that there is now in every diocese an organizing secretary and influential working committee. Each diocese being thus able to stand alone the very success which had been attained rendered the existence of two centres unnecessary, and eventually the Northern was merged into the Southern Province, with the General Committee located in London. Since that time, Mr. Graham has devoted his services entirely to the diocese of Manchester, and the magnitude of the work may be gauged by the fact that the diocese comprises nearly 500 parishes with a population of 2,000,000, and has a larger number of parochial branches and individual members than any other diocese in England or Wales.

Anyone who has attended one of the annual meetings in the historic Free Trade Hall in Manchester, will be able to understand far better than any words of ours can indicate, the hold which the Church of England Temperance crusade has taken upon the masses of the people in the North of England, and the fact that on one Sunday nearly 350 temperance sermons were preached in the churches of the diocese on behalf of the society, will give but a faint idea of the magnitude of the operations which Mr. Graham has had to guide and direct. Only within the last month the subject of our sketch addressed in one week at Bolton twelve workshop meetings, a large meeting in the Town Hall of 2,000 persons, and two large open-air demonstrations, at one of which 3,000 persons attended. As a platform advocate, Mr. Graham is singularly impressive. He has the faculty possessed by few of holding his audience in his hand. The initial secret of his success is that no one can doubt his sincerity. His matter is as well-chosen as his manner is pleasing; and when speaking on his favourite subject to an audience which he feels, by the instinct common