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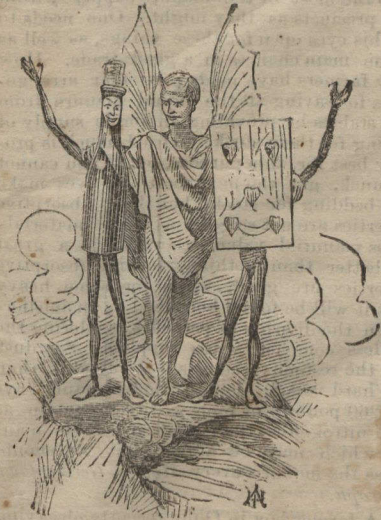
Temperance Department.

THE DOWNWARD COURSE.

The following account of the injury, temporal and eternal, to our men and women, young and old, although imaginative is still true, as many hundreds now dead could tell if it were possible for them to speak to us, and as many tottering on the grave's verge daily assert by their words, or actions which speak louder than words, to all who meet with them.

One beautiful sunshiny day on earth Satan, from his domains, saw a lad bound along from school, joyfully open the door of his mother's house and running up the stairs to her room, where she lay on her invalid's couch, imprint a sounding kiss on her lips, and exclaim with joyful voice, "I've gained it—the scholarship; now I'll be able to go to college without you having to scheme and scrape for me as you have been doing." "God bless you, my boy! I'm proud of you," was all the mother could say, her heart was so full, first of thankfulness to God, and secondly of pride in her only child; for he had to work hard to win the Casarville College scholarship, which was considered the greatest honor for the boys of Union Village.

Such a sight was not pleasant to the eyes of the Prince of Darkness, and he called two of his most trusty friends, and, placing one on either side of him, put his hands on their shoulders and bade them swear.



THE OATH.

He dictated the terrible oath and they repeated it as follows:—

"To thee O Prince of Darkness and of the Earth, we fealty swear—against the people of the earth; to God, ruler of all—to every creature on the earth—to all who have been on the earth—to all who may come,—we swear eternal enmity.—We will war with them—we will do all in power to injure them—we will tempt them—we will profess friendship and be their enemies,—we will cause their eternal destruction.—We will begin when they are young, and educate them for their ruin—we will use the influence of all good

men we can—we will take every advantage for thee."

This was the oath to which they swore with uplifted hands; they, Bottle and Cards-Satan pointed to them the young man first spoken of, who was then sitting in his chair, while before his mental view were passing visions of himself conquering the world, holding places of honor, wealthy and loved, and around him floated his mother's words, "God bless you, my boy! I'm proud of you." "Begin there," Satan said; "his is a mind to command and lead hundreds; wreck it." They knelt and again repeated their oath.

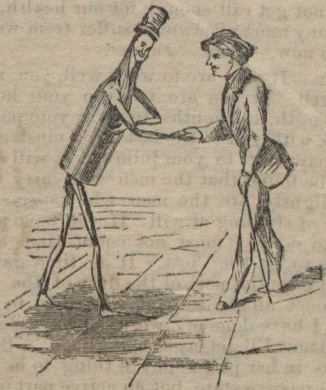
At college, amongst many he had injured under pretence of friendship, Bottle found no



THE COMMAND.

difficulty to obtain an introduction to the young man under the guise of a friend who would cheer up his spirits when sick, make him witty when dull, give him strength when weak, help him with his studies, make all his hours pass pleasantly, and introduce him to pleasant companions. The young man grasped the proffered hand, and Bottle, accustomed to swearing, placed his other hand where his heart should have been, and swore eternal friendship to his dupe.

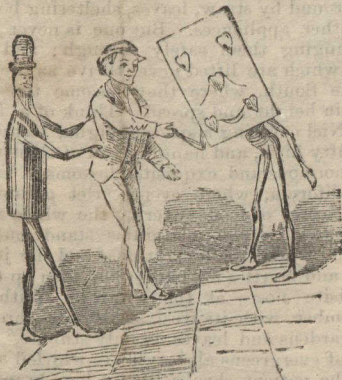
The young man found his companion pleasurable enough at first; and as his visits were not frequent, the fact that he was becoming a necessity, and that without his presence he could do nothing, did not enter his mind; so their friendship grew. One evening while with his college mates, all of whom honor-



THE INTRODUCTION.

ed Bottle who sat on the centre of the table amusing them, Bottle proposed to introduce Cards, and this individual was introduced to our young man, who, although he had heard of him in no complimentary terms, never before had the "honor" of an introduction.

Bottle held him up while he shook hands with Cards, and they all soon grew warm friends.



THE SECOND INTRODUCTION.

After this the young man became more and more enamored of his "friends." One day he went out to enjoy himself with Bottle and was seen entirely "under the influence" of the latter.

But all pleasure has an end, and so had this. He was discovered late at night lying on the stone pavement on the street, while beside him sat Bottle, now for the first time in his true colors, exulting over the success of his efforts.



ENJOYMENT.

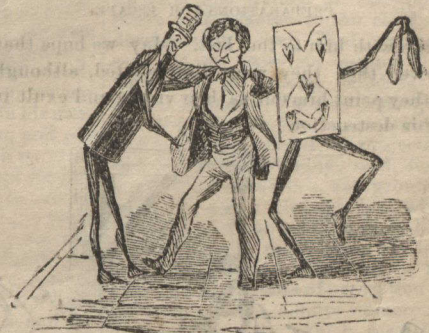
This caused him to doubt his "friend," but he was informed that this always happened to persons who took Bottle's advice, but that Bottle was necessary to him. At this time too he had finished his college course, but although he had entered the school with many hopes and every prospect of success, he barely passed his examination; and strange to say he thanked Bottle for not having been plucked, but was a little doubtful of Cards. After this he went into business, and from the college brought but two everyday companions with



EXULTATION.

him, who are seen in the next illustration. They required to be paid for their friendly care, and sometimes helped themselves as they well knew how.

He was a young man, and his salary was not large, and, therefore, as soon as his friends began helping themselves without his knowledge, his pockets became habitually empty. They then threatened to leave him, but he had become so enamored of them that he never could allow that, and thoughts entered his mind of helping himself. His mother—he often thought of her—knew his friendship for Bottle and Cards; they had drawn him away from her. She was no longer proud of him, but wept and prayed for him as her fallen son. No, he could not disgrace his mother by doing a criminal action; he must give up



HELPING THEMSELVES.

his companions and turn boldly to work. His mind is made up. But then he owes money for a debt that he had contracted for Cards. He must pay it somehow, otherwise it would be dishonorable. At this time he meets his companions. How strange it was that he, unthinkingly, when all this dispute was going on in his mind, walked to where they were always to be found! They face him; it would be too direct an insult to pass them then; besides he owed money, and he resolved to amuse himself with them for the last time. But when enjoying himself with Bottle, Cards dunned him for his money—he signed another's name to a paper and is a forger!



FORGERY.

Bottle is the first to make his guilt known, and on his arrest both of his "friends" accompany him to the jail door and safely lock him in.

But they do not leave him yet,—their duties only end with his life. He must be ruined forever, and he may still retrace his steps. They comfort him in jail and put weapons in his hands. He must escape and shoot down or stab any who would prevent him.