

## TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE,

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE &amp; NEWS.

PLEDGE.—We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use Intoxicating Liquors as a Beverage, nor Traffic in them; that we will not provide them as an article of Entertainment, nor for persons in our Employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

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## A Leaf from Real Life.

As I was spending a few weeks with a friend, in the delightful village of S., I became acquainted with the facts which form the subject of my story. Had I the pen of "a ready writer," or a happy descriptive talent, I would love to present, by the magic power of words, the beauties of this place to your mind's eye, for it would be a much more pleasing theme than the one before me. But now I will pass on, merely saying that it is one of the lovely spots of earth, if not one of the loveliest.

Nearly opposite the house of my friend, on a little eminence, stood an elegant mansion, surrounded by a large yard, adorned with stately shade trees, beautiful shrubbery, gravel walks, and flowers of almost every variety of color and perfume. Every thing around indicated the wealth and taste of the inmates.

During my visit, my attention was frequently arrested by the singular and irregular movements of a man, who might be seen at certain hours of every day, walking up and down the back yard; or if the weather was unpleasant, pacing the piazza in rear of the house. He was apparently thirty-five years of age, of a tall, commanding form, and as he was invariably seen without a hat, whatever might be the weather, he displayed a high, noble forehead, which bore the stamp of lofty intellect.

I never saw him approach the street, and he was always entirely alone. His step was sometimes rapid, and at others, slow and mechanical; and there was such an indefinable strangeness in his whole appearance, as greatly to excite my curiosity. I asked a solution of the mystery, of my friend Lizzie, who related to me his sad history, which is a striking evidence of the danger of violating the command,—“Look not on the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup.”

Would that others tempted to yield to the allurements of the sparkling, but health-consuming, soul-destroying glass, would take effectual warning from his case, and receive, in the strength of One mighty to help, that while life endures, they will “touch not, taste nor handle not” that liquid fire, more destructive than the melted lava which flows from the yawning crater of the burning volcano.

Arthur Gray was the darling child of fond, but not weakly indulgent parents. His father, Judge Gray, was a man of strong intellectual powers, successful in his profession, a steady supporter of social, religious and educational institutions, and a much esteemed member of society.

Mrs. Gray was a good manager, an intelligent, amiable lady, and a consistent member of the Presbyterian church.

Arthur, as I have said, was their darling child; for he was a boy of more than ordinary promise, beautiful person, and mentally gifted by nature, possessing a quick, retentive memory, keen perceptive faculties, and joined with these was an innate love of fun. It would not be strange if at times a parent's pride and affection gained the

ascendancy over prudence and decision, but their aim was judicious training.

There was doubtless a blameable neglect on the part of these parents, to inculcate in the impressible mind of Arthur, the holy principles of the blessed gospel, which are the best of all talismans that any youth can possess.

The childhood and early youth of Arthur Gray were marked by no striking events, which demand a particular notice. His physical and intellectual developments were such as to warrant the fondest hopes for the future.

At the age of sixteen he entered college with an enviable reputation as a scholar, and a personal appearance and address, that would give him a ready passport to the society of his fellow students. Here he entered on new scenes, and was beset by temptations which he was quite unprepared to resist. Possessing a lively, social nature, he naturally formed a more intimate acquaintance with that class of young men who prefer mirth and amusement to close application to study. And here has many a young man taken the first downward step to degradation and ruin. The wholesome and necessary regulations of the institution become irksome, and ways and means are devised to violate them.

Arthur Gray was marked a victim by the tempters, and they sought to entice him from the path of virtue, to pursue the widening path that they chose themselves to follow. Nor did they labor long without success; for with flattering words and promises of “fun,” he was ensnared. From being led, he ere long became a leader, for he was ambitious to be foremost in every rank which he entered. He went from one degree to another, until he became a “boon companion” with such as tarried long at the wine, and were skillful in the use of cards. And yet for a long time his ambition impelled him to maintain his position as an excellent scholar.

For weeks together he would steadily and diligently apply himself to study, and very few suspected his downhill course. So gifted by nature was he, that he might easily have borne away the highest honors, and wreathed the bright laurels of mental distinction around his brow; but he lacked the moral power to resist the debasing influences about him.

But we will not dwell longer on the scenes of his college life. Suffice it to say that, although he did not gratify the bright and fondly cherished hopes of his friends, yet he graduated with respectability as a scholar, and his commencement oration displayed talent of a high order.

After leaving college he returned home, and for a time he studied law with his father. Here, being under parental restraint, and surrounded by fewer temptations, he gave little occasion to suspect that all was not right, but he applied himself to the acquirement of his profession. His father wishing to give him every possible advantage, sent him to the city, where he might enjoy more extensive privileges in a legal education. There he was of course