

## 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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## The Pledge.—Chapter III.

When Mr. Seymour became acquainted more minutely with the history of James Latimer, he had some fears about the consequences of introducing into his family one who had been so familiar with vice, and who had fallen so low in the scale of degradation. He understood well the force of the precept, "Evil communications corrupt good manners;" and he felt, for a time, uneasy, lest the evil of the lad's heart should break over all recently applied restraints, and others be injured by coming in contact with him. Fortunately for all, no such unhappy consequences followed. The entire removal of James from old scenes and companions, a total abstinence from that exciter of evil and corrupt passions—strong drink—daily useful employment, and new and virtuous associations, sustained him in his good resolutions.

And yet he was by no means free from temptations, and they, at times, strong and almost overmastering. Often, the labor he had to undergo for so many hours in succession, proved irksome, and his thoughts would turn to the freedom of other days, while his heart pined for the liberty to do as he pleased, which he once possessed. Mr. Seymour, whose watchful eyes were rarely without drawn from the youth he had taken into his family, noticed his changing states of mind, and was careful to meet them in such a way as best to sustain him in the hour of temptation. He early introduced him into one of the Temperance societies, and managed to get him interested and actively engaged in the cause.—James needed some excitement of mind, and this furnished just what was wanted. Mr. Seymour also sent him to night school, for his education was extremely defective, where he rapidly improved himself. There was a very good library in his master's house, and there were also several weekly literary and Temperance papers taken by Mr. Seymour; these furnished James with the right kind of occupation for leisure hours, and gradually made impressions upon his mind deep enough to obliterate, in a good degree, the marks left by passion, vice, and debasing sensuality.

A year in the family and workshop of Mr. Seymour, wrought wonders for the young man. The distorting marks left upon his countenance by a long course of evil indulgence, were fast disappearing, and giving place to a manly, open, benevolent, and elevating expression. He was industrious and faithful in his work, and quiet, orderly and respectful in the family of his master. His zeal in the cause of Temperance was a gradually progressing impulse; and from simply being a partaker of its benefits, he became an active promoter of the cause, and a warm advocate of its doctrines. Wherever there was work to be done, you would find young Latimer standing ready to enter into it, and with an earnestness that ensured success to his efforts.

There was, in the family of Mr. Seymour, a young girl, not so old by a year or two as James, whose kindness had, from the first, caused him to regard her with feelings of gratitude and good will. All that James knew about Mary was, that she was a niece to Mr. Arlington, of whom she sometimes spoke in terms of affection.—Gradually, the young man became interested in Mary Arlington. He regularly accompanied her to and from church on Sundays, and sought every convenient and proper opportunity to be with her during the week. Mr. Seymour observed this, and felt it to be his duty to notify Mary's uncle of the fact. The intelligence was not pleasing to the latter. He knew little more about the young man than that he had been raised under the most corrupting and debasing influences, from which he had only been removed a short time. During that time he had, it is true, conducted himself with great propriety; but he felt that the risk

would be too great to permit anything more than an ordinary intimacy to spring up between the young man and Mary. And he wrote to Mr. Seymour to this effect.

The cabinet maker felt that he was in an unpleasant dilemma. The intercourse between the young people was so prudent, so open, and so free from anything that gave him the smallest excuse for interfering with them, that he could neither do nor say anything on the subject. His wife, more shrewd than either he or the uncle, in matters of this kind, warned him, that he had better let them alone; for if he attempted to interfere, he would be sure to fan even the smallest spark of love into a flame.

Several communications passed between Mr. Seymour and the uncle, which resulted in the determination of Mr. Arlington to remove his niece to the city, and take her into his own family.—This was approved by the cabinet maker. Both Mary and James heard of this decision with pain; though both were ignorant of the cause which led to it. The natural consequence that followed the thought of separation, was a revelation to the heart of each, that a deeper interest was felt in the other, than had been supposed. They had not been lovers before; or rather, had not known that they were interested in each other to any very great extent. Now, they not only acknowledged the fact to themselves, but mutually confessed it.

On the afternoon of the last Sabbath Mary was to spend in Newark, James asked her to take a walk with him, and they went out together. They were moving along slowly, in the pleasant suburbs of the city, and had fallen into an earnest conversation, when all at once Mary started with an exclamation of painful surprise. The eyes of the young man had been upon the ground, but he looked up quickly and saw approaching, and close to them, a wretched-looking object, in the person of a miserable drunkard, with mean and soiled attire, who was staggering along, just able to maintain his balance.

Mary stood like one petrified, while the debased creature approached. But he was too much intoxicated to know any one, and passed on without seeming aware that he had attracted attention. After he had passed, Mary turned and looked after him for some moments, while the tears came into her eyes and fell over her cheeks.

"Who is he?" asked James, whose liveliest interest was awakened.

"My poor father!" murmured Mary, in a sad, quivering voice. James was silent. The sympathy he felt for Mary was too deep for expression.

"Let us go home," he said, in a moment or two. And they walked back together, nearly the whole way in silence.

"Does your father live in Newark?" James asked, before they reached home.

"Sometimes," said Mary, in a choking voice.

The young man said no more. But he resolved that he would learn, from those who could tell him, the history of Mary's family; and he also resolved, as he walked silently by the young girl's side, that he would devote every power he possessed to the reformation of her father.

"To-morrow she leaves us," he said to himself. "And to-morrow evening I will seek out this wretched man and reform him, if that be within the power of human action."

That evening Mary spent alone in her own room, with a sad and sorrowful heart. And the next day she left for the city, to go into the family of her uncle. Before going to his work in the morning, James sought an interview of a few moments.