

"Yes, I do, and I wish I knew no more of cards and liquor than you do," responded a young man who now came into Frank Merriam's room. "I didn't mean to, but I gave way a little at a time, until I am in for it; so I may as well keep on."

"Read that," responded his companion, pointing to the words which had arrested his own attention.

When read, the reader said sadly: "The trouble with me is I decided wrong, and I suppose it is too late to change."

"And did you decide for the evil against the good?"

"I suppose so, though I didn't think of it in that way. My father and mother would be distracted if they knew how I spend my evenings; I wish I could stay here with you."

"You can. Two are stronger than one, and we can help each other. Let the others go if they will. They cannot compel us to go with them. Don't decide again for the evil side."

"You don't understand about it as well as I do. You are on the outside of the ring, while I am inside."

At this moment a tramping of feet was followed by shouts of "Hurry up!" We shall lose half the fun unless we are on hand in good season."

"But we are not going," responded Frank Merriam. "I am sorry I gave you any reason to think I would go." Converse has decided to stay with me, too, and I wish the rest of you would keep us company."

This called forth a storm of ridicule and sharp retorts, yet the two stood firm, and presently the street door closed behind those who were "bound to have some fun, let it cost what it would."

They did not dream what the cost might be. They had no thought of any serious result from their evening's amusement; but the next morning found them under arrest for grave misdemeanors. Each was compelled to pay a heavy fine, in addition to giving bonds for future good conduct.

It was the old story of excessive drinking and its effects. One glass followed another until sense and reason were overpowered, and angry blows succeeded angry words.

"Bless the old scrap-book for its lesson, and thank God it was heeded!" exclaimed Frank Merriam, when he knew what had transpired.

"Amen," responded George Converse heartily. "I have made a new decision and shall not change it. I am a teetotaler now and forever more."—*Youth's Temperance Banner.*

"BE YOU A LADY?"

As a young lady walked hurriedly down State street upon a bleak November day, her attention was attracted by a deformed boy coming towards her, carrying several bundles. He was thinly clad, twisted his limbs most strangely as he walked, and looked about him with a vacant stare. Just before the cripple reached the brisk pedestrian he stumbled, thus dropping one bundle, which broke and emptied a string of sausages on the sidewalk.

The richly-dressed ladies (?) near by held back their silken skirts and whispered quite audibly, "How horrid!" while several who passed by, amused by the boy's looks of blank dismay, gave vent to their feeling in a half-suppressed laugh, and then went on without taking further interest.

All this increased the boy's embarrassment. He stopped to pick up the sausages, only to let fall another parcel, when in despair he looked at his lost spoils. In an instant the bright-faced stranger stepped to the boy's side and said in a tone of thorough kindness:

"Let me hold those other bundles while you pick up what you have lost."

In dumb astonishment the cripple handed all he had to the young Samaritan and devoted himself to securing his sausages. When these were again strongly tied in the coarse, torn paper, her skilful hands replaced the parcels on his scrawny arms as she bestowed on him a smile of encouragement, and said:

"I hope you haven't far to go." The poor fellow seemed scarcely to hear the girl's pleasant words, but, looking at her with the same vacant stare, said:

"Be you a lady?"

"I hope so: I try to be," was the surprised response.

"I was kind of hopin' you was:'t."

"Why?" asked the listener, with curiosity quite aroused.

"'Cause I've seen as called themselves ladies, but they never spoke kind and pleasant to me, 'cepting to grand uns. I guess there's two kinds—them as think they's ladies and isn't, and them as what tries to be and is."—*Youth's Companion.*

TEMPERANCE CLUB AND LIBRARY,

TORONTO.

It is proposed to form a Temperance Club and Library in Toronto on the following basis:

OBJECTS.

The mutual advancement and social improvement of the members, with a view to increased interest and usefulness in the Temperance cause, especially among young men and women.

MEANS.

The furnishing of suitable rooms for reading, debating and social purposes; the formation of a Library of Temperance Works; Public Lectures and discussions; distribution of Temperance Literature, &c.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership to consist of Life and Ordinary Members, who must be total abstainers.

Life members to pay the sum of not less than \$25.00, which shall entitle them to all privileges for life.

Ordinary Members—Entrance fee, Gentlemen \$2.50; Ladies \$1.50. Annual subscription payable half-yearly. Gentlemen, \$2.50; Ladies, \$1.50.

In the formation of this Club it is not proposed to compete with existing temperance organizations, but rather to assist them by providing workers with the means of social union and mental improvement. The office and reading room of the Club would afford opportunity for information and announcement of the work and meeting places of all existing temperance societies.

TO THE PRINCIPALS OF OUR LARGE BUSINESS HOUSES AND THE FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE GENERALLY we commend this important proposal. There are hundreds of Clerks in the City, who have practically no social resort outside their boarding houses, except the theatre, billiard rooms, dancing rooms and saloons. A large number of such young people sign the temperance pledge almost every week. These are practically lost to the cause for the want of some such agency as is here proposed.

Donations, or promised donations, towards the Furnishing and Library Fund are earnestly requested. We have carefully calculated the cost of rent and management, and find that these can be covered by the small rate of subscription announced above, if we can be assured of a sufficient fund from Life Members, and donations from sympathizers, to furnish a really comfortable suite of rooms and a suitable Library, which must embrace all standard and general temperance literature.

The undersigned have been requested to act as provisional Directors until the Club is fully organized, and they are authorized to receive donations and applications for membership.

Signed,

W. R. BELL,
W. G. FEE,
R. FIELDING,
P. MCINTYRE,
W. P. MELVILLE,
J. MOORE,
A. WATSON,

} Com.

B. E. MCKENZIE, M.D., *President*,
Kingston Road, City.
ROBERT LAE, *Secretary-Treasurer*,
22 Church St., City.
WILLIAM BURGESS, *Librarian*,
33 Hayden St., City.

The following resolution has been agreed upon: That all candidates for membership who shall apply and pay an application fee of 25 cents on or before June 1st, shall be entitled to Election as Members of the Club on payment of a further sum of, Gentlemen, \$1.25, Ladies 75 cts., as entrance fee, instead of \$2.50 and \$1.50 as above, provided they sign the constitution and rules.