

among those who do attend. By-the-by, Richard, I do not remember to have seen you there of late ; perhaps I overlooked you.

*Richard.*—Nay, Samuel, I have not been at a meeting these six or seven weeks ; for the last time I was there, there were so few ; and the addresses were so void of interest, that I felt no great relish for them ; and besides I have generally some other business to attend to on meeting night.

*Samuel.*—Richard, I make it a point of duty to attend every meeting if in health, and if I have not some engagement that I cannot possibly avoid ; and I also make it a point of duty to try to persuade as many others—teetotalers as well as non-teetotalers, to go likewise. Do you, Richard, try to persuade others to attend the meetings ?

*Richard.*—Why, no, I have not tried to do this of late. I did, some time back, try to persuade some of my shopmates to attend, but they laughed at me.

*Samuel.*—Now, Richard, I am about to speak plainly to you ; and I hope that what I say will be taken in the same spirit of kindness and affection with which it is given. You say that the temperance cause is in a low, sinking state ; that the meetings are thinly attended ; and that there is little or no interest in the addresses which are given from time to time. That there is some truth in one or two of your complaints I will admit ; but, Richard, *Where does the blame lie ?* Answer me that question.—What, no answer. Then I will answer it for you. That the temperance cause is in rather a feeble state in our town at present is attributable to you and