

crush you to the dust with sorrow. Drop the curtains, Jane, I would be in darkness and solitude."

Seeing she still hesitated, he at last permitted her to seat herself on an ottoman in another part of the room out of his sight, under an injunction to keep an unbroken silence.

Jane had feared to leave him lest he might in his desponding state lay violent hands upon himself, and she rejoiced in having the privilege to be near him during this fearful hour.

A stray sunbeam threw its light aslant her form as she sank almost powerless upon the ottoman, and this contrasting so powerfully with the darkness that enveloped every other part of the sick room, seemed a cheerful token of the result. Subdued and mournful groans from time to time, assured her that her husband still lived, and anon a heart rending sob would cause her to rise hurriedly to go to his assistance; but a moment's reflection would teach her better, and pressing her hands upon her heart she would resume her humble position.

The dark scenes of the past year lay open before her, again she listened to the unsteady step, the wild laughter, and maudlin protestations of undying affection for herself and child, and in agony of soul she asked that this bitter cup might pass away. The clock chimed the quarters as they passed on, and at length Jane knew but a few moments more of suspense would decide the question. Orrin's groans and sobs, had gradually subsided into whispered exclamations, and as the last quarter chimed upon her ear, ere the sound had died away, Orrin spoke in a calm self-possessing manner, to the anxious partner of his bosom, saying,

"Jane, I have conquered; put back the curtains, dearest, I may now see the light of day and your dear face unblushingly."

Jane did as he bade her, and the glorious sun-light poured its rich effulgence on her dazzled sight. Joyously did she now spring to the bedside of her husband, and would have strained him to her bosom, but he motioned to her to restrain her feelings, and with energy begged her to bring him the Bible. Astonished and alarmed Jane obeyed; there was a deep solemnity upon his brow and in his lustrous dark eye, that awed her very soul. With trembling hands she bore the Bible to the bed, and placing it before him, silently waited the result. Orrin placed one hand on the Bible, and the other on Jane's trembling hand that lay near the sacred pages, and calling God to witness his sincerity, solemnly vowed to abstain from using intoxicating drinks as a beverage, then raising the blessed book to his quivering lips, he sunk back upon his pillow exhausted by the emotions of his soul. Jane replaced the Bible with the tears of joy gushing from her eyes, and then bathing her husband's pallid face with ice water soon restored him to consciousness.

"I am free, Jane—I am free!" were the first words Orrin uttered, and from henceforth I will remain so; and the loving wife now gave way to the tenderness of her nature, and her kisses seemed to Orrin as seals to his oath.

The voice of their little boy was now heard earnestly pleading with the servant to be permitted to see his parents. Jane rose, and opened the door he bounded in, with his golden curls disordered, tears in his eyes, and smiles on his lip. Springing up on the bed he nestled his bright face down on his father's bosom, and began in his artless manner to relate how Dr. Harris had kissed him the day before, and when he looked up in his face he saw tears on the doctor's cheeks.

"Had Dr. Harris been naughty, father?"

"No, my boy—oh no!" said Orrin.

"Well, what did he cry for, then—is his father sick?"

"Be still, Sanford, you must not talk so much," said Jane; remember, poor papa must not be annoyed by your prattle, or I shall have to send you out with Debby;" and the boy fearing expulsion, drew the bedclothes over him and remained quiet.

The morning passed on, and about twelve o'clock Dr. Harris called, and was agreeably surprised to find Orrin's pulse more regular and his fever abating. Sanford had by this time been induced to leave his father's side, and was playing about the room, but as soon as the doctor called him he left his playthings, and looking archly in the doctor's face said,

"I told my father you cried yesterday, doctor."

"Well, I had reason to cry, my boy," said the doctor, looking steadily at Orrin, "but I hope I shall never cry again for the same cause."

"No doctor, you never shall, if I can help it," said Orrin, and the child then beginning to talk of another matter, the conversation changed greatly to the relief of the kind hearted physician.—In a few weeks Orrin Lacey recovered entirely, and was able to resume his business, and almost the first thing he did, was to inform his friends that he should hereafter drink nothing that would intoxicate and expose him to such suffering as he had endured. Some mocked his purpose, some approved, and others expressed a hope that he would not disgrace himself by signing the pledge; but Orrin's mind was decided and in a short time he became a short member of the City Temperance Society.

About three months after this, as Jane was passing down Bleeker-street one day, she met Dr. Harris, and during the conversation that ensued, she informed the doctor of the change in her husband, without going into the particulars we have narrated.

"Dear Mrs. Lacey, do you really flatter yourself that he will adhere to his present determination long," said the doctor, with a significant shake of the head.

"Yes, I have no doubt but he will adhere to it through life, doctor; he has signed the pledge, and I feel that he is safe," said Jane with animation; but she saw by the expression of the doctor's eye that he did not feel the same confidence, and as they parted, when the doctor whispered her to look higher than man's best resolutions, and seek for grace to endure disappointment, fearful forebodings for the first time since her husband's recovery, damped her spirits; but looking at him she said,

"Doctor, my confidence in Orrin Lacey's sustaining the character of a total abstinence man from now till the day of his death, is as strong as my hopes of heaven, and I trust you will yet find that your faithfulness in pointing out his danger, has been richly recompensed."

"God grant it, Mrs. Lacey, not only for his sake, but for yours and your child's well being;" and they parted, each immersed in conjecture as to what effect their conversation would produce on each other's mind. "I hope I have not discouraged that affectionate wife," said the doctor musingly, as he pursued his way, "but really women will believe those they love despite the teachings of experience," "I think Dr. Harris will feel something like my confidence," said Mrs. Lacey, and a bright smile played over her expressive features.

Months rolled on after this without an interview between Lacey and Dr. Harris, but at length disease again invaded the home of the Lacey's, and a servant was dispatched for the physician. He not being in at the moment, the servant left the request. On the doctor's return, being informed of it, he speedily was on his way thither, not doubting but Orrin's renewed excesses had again prostrated him. At the door he met too soon companions of Lacey departing with tears in their eyes, and accosting them he found instead of it being Lacey who was ill, it was the child of so much promise—the little intelligent Sanford. Entering the sick room there sat the afflicted parents, one on either side the crib ministering to the little sufferer with assiduous kindness. The moment the boy's eye fell on the doctor he cried out,

"Don't you cry again, doctor—don't you cry again; don't doctor," and he clasped his hands in supplication.

"No, I will not," said the doctor, gazing with amazement at the altered countenance of Lacey, then proceeding to make the necessary inquiries, he soon prescribed for the suffering child, and was rejoiced to see his prescription availing almost immediately.

"Dr. Harris," (said Orrin, after a pause in the conversation, as the doctor seemed in a hurry to leave,) "tell me honestly what you thought would be the result of the serious conversation you held with me while I lay ill?"

"The result, I expected, Mr. Lacey, was, that on your recovery you would inform me that when there was sickness again in your family you would like another physician; but I rejoice now to see by your altered appearance, that you have acted upon the advice I then gave, and still feel kindly toward me," and the doctor extended his hand which Orrin and Jane both grasped, Orrin exclaiming,

"I thank God for your faithfulness; may you ever be as successful an adviser; let my reformation encourage you to hope for a good result."

"I owe Mrs. Lacey an apology for the unbelieving manner in