

days had not agreed with me, as I had eaten but little, and, as a consequence, the whole of the next week I was quite sick. So I staid at home, and, for a wonder, kept sober. During the whole of that week I was wide-awake, and kept an account of the money I drew, which amounted in all to about seven dollars. Well, when the week was out I went to him again and asked him how we stood. He took down his book, and after a little figuring, he said: 'Your bill is just seventy-one dollars and thirty-five cents.' So that for my *seven* dollars he had charged me just a little over *thirty*. This stunned me altogether, and I told him I would not pay it. But how was I to help myself? That was the question. I went to a friend of mine, and told him how I had been served; and talked about law and justice. But my friend said it was of no use for me to go to a magistrate about it, as I could do nothing. And he remarked, that 'there was no justice for drunkards.' This set me thinking, and I made a vow that I would never put it into the power of any man to serve me such a trick again.

'My friend said: 'The best thing that you can do is to pack up your duds, pay your bill, and go to a decent boarding-house.' I took his advice, and moved off to a Temperance house in Pearl Street, kept by that good man Captain Roland Gelston. Here I tried to taper off, but I soon found out that this tapering off, or merely reducing my potations, was bad business. It kept me stupid all the time, and made me say and do many things which I was ashamed of when in my right senses. Well, on the twenty-fourth of December, there was a good deal of talk of one John B. Gough, who was to address a Temperance meeting in the Old Mariners' Church, in Roosevelt Street. And after supper, one of my fellow-boarders came to me and said: 'What do you say if you and I go to the meeting at Mr. Chase's, and sign the pledge?' 'Agreed,' says I, and off we went. The house was full. We stood and listened about half an hour, and then they sent round the contribution-box. I threw in a piece of silver. Then they passed the word along, that if any one wanted to sign the pledge, they should come forward. So my friend and I walked up and signed the articles, got our certificates, and started for home. And I have kept the pledge ever since. I came mighty near breaking it, however, the next morning. My coppers were hot. I wanted my

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