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THE REFORMED INEBRIATE STEDFAST.

About twenty years ago, a young man, who resided in Upper Canada, undertook to run away from his character, which had become vile in his own eyes. He left behind him a large paternal estate, and a widowed mother; but his character he could not leave, for he carried along with him a thirst for strong drink, and habits of intemperance.

He wandered from place to place, till at length he let himself for service to a man of sterling piety, and of thorough going temperance principles. The young man felt his degradation. He who might have commanded almost as fine an estate as could be found in Canada, was there in a strange land, labouring at monthly wages—all because he was a drunkard!

The estate was still in the hands of his mother, and she was afraid to trust her son with it, and he was afraid to go back again among the companions of his youth, who had led him in the paths of folly. But now his reformation began. From industrious, he was led to steady, sober habits, and at length he was persuaded to take the *teetotal pledge*; and he came fully to himself, and felt, not only that he was a prodigal, far away from his house, but from God, his heavenly Father, in a state of sin and wretchedness! After a season of deep conviction, and of much sorrow and mourning over his manifold transgressions, he found peace in believing in Jesus, and about the year 1832, united with the church of which myself the same year became pastor. And now he felt no inclination to return to the parish where, by going into evil company, he had ruined his character, but to remain where it had been renovated, and where it might be fully established. To gain his bread by the sweat of his

brow he now felt to be an honour, and so he toiled on in the service of the same pious man, who had been the instrument, in the hands of God, of his reformation. He united in marriage with an amiable and pious young lady, and comfortably supported a family by the labor of his hands. Thus he continued to do, for seven or eight years, maintaining a consistent Christian character.

At length, by the earnest solicitation of his aged mother, he concluded to return to Canada, and take possession of the spacious homestead. Both himself and his Christian friends indulged fears that this change in his circumstances might prove injurious to his temperance principles. He seemed to have a fearful dread of ever associating again with the companions of his youth. But the Lord, who has promised to keep all those who put their trust in him, had evidently other thoughts by leading him back to the home of his childhood. He went out with the character of a vile drunkard, but the Lord caused him to return with that of a sober, decided Christian. He went out a profligate young man, an alien from home and heaven; he returned at the head of a family consecrated to God. How great the change!

But leaving that region of country a few years after myself, and entering another part of Canada to labour as a missionary, amid a multitude of cares and duties, I had almost forgotten the subject of this narrative, in whose welfare I once took a very deep interest. But lately a communication from him has greatly cheered my heart, from which the following is an extract:

“—, Canada West, February 9, 1848.

Rev. and dear sir—Having seen your name frequently in the *Temperance Advocate*, I take the liberty of addressing myself to one, of whom we have often thought and talked since we parted with you at E., state of New York, in the year 1840. I often look back with pleasure to the time when I sat under the sound of your voice in E., and at W., and I am still striving to walk in the path that leads to a better world than this. I have been advocating the cause of *total abstinence*, in my weak way, ever since I returned to Canada, and I hope with some success. Our neighbourhood was once noted for drunkenness, but now we have a temperance society, of which I have the honour of holding the office of secretary. The cause is gaining in our district. At a school house about three miles from hence, I had the pleasure of addressing a congregation a few evenings since, where we obtained twenty-six names to the pledge, one a hard drinker. I have three boys, all teetotalers. Our little daughter is not yet old enough to sign the pledge.”

When I read the above, my heart said, “Bless the Lord for his unspeakable goodness in reclaiming and