

other, Summers consented to remain during the night.

When about retiring to their rooms, Jones remarked—

"It struck me as singular that Andrews seemed so eager to put down his name for the *Conductor* this evening. Heaven knows he's poor, though industrious, and there is no one more economical."

"Had it been twice the sum he would have subscribed," said Summers. "But stop a moment, and I will let you into the secret of that. Fifteen years since, Charlie Andrews started in life with as fair prospects as any young man in the country. With a good wife and comfortable patrimony, nothing seemed wanting to add to his condition. Though what was called a temperate man, he was not in principle opposed to taking a social drink; and the habit increased from a glass or two during the week, to a daily portion; then twice a day; and soon he became unable to resist the desire to drink whenever liquor was in his way. Neglect of business and bankruptcy followed. He then became a confirmed, and to all appearance a hopeless drunkard. His wife and children were so brutally treated, that they were compelled to leave him; his former boon companions mocked, though they would still sell him liquor; and most of his real friends gave him up as a desperate case. About this time, being on one of his drunken frolics, he came near freezing to death. Walters discovered him, and had him conveyed to his own house, nursed him for three weeks and then induced him to join the Division which had just been organized in the village. Andrews entered the Order in good faith. He was again a sober man, but how changed in appearance and circumstances from the Charlie Andrews of eight years previous! He had now to commence life anew, but with the tremendous burden of a debt of five thousand dollars on his shoulders. He went to work vigorously, however; friends advanced means to give him a start, and his wife and children returned to enliven once more his long desolate hearth. A year passed, and he began to think himself safe. Occasionally he would mingle with his old associates, and they now willingly extended the hand of fraternity. At that time, the Order published a paper, and Andrews was a subscriber. He came to the post-office on Saturday, as was his custom, and with his paper in his hand, sauntered down the street. At the tavern door he met with some of his old comrades, one of them just returned from a long absence. Andrews stopped for a moment, and they talked of old times, and the rollicking scenes they had witnessed together. As the recollection of many a convivial company floated across his mind, his blood seemed to warm and flow more quickly. Some one proposed a "drink," and he was invited to join. He declined, but faintly; he was pressed just to take one glass for "lang syne." The old appetite came upon him with redoubled force; he felt that he was irresistibly yielding to what would be worse to him than death. Unconsciously his glance sought the floor and fell on the paper in his hand; his attention was riveted by a paragraph which detailed a case somewhat similar to his own—how the man had given way to the tempter, became again a drunkard, and how horrible his end. Andrews stood a moment in utter abstraction; he was aroused by being again urged to drink.

"Friends," he exclaimed, starting from

his revelry, and glaring around with a look which chilled their very souls, "I quit you forever!" and dashed from the room.

Charlie has never been asked to take a glass since; nor, indeed, has any one ever had the opportunity; and he attributes his deliverance from a drunkard's fate under God, to his having been a subscriber to a temperance paper.

"This occurred," continued Summers, "two years before you came to the neighbourhood; of his conduct since you can yourself judge."

The friends retired to their beds; the one to find in a few moments quiet slumbers, the other to have first several hours of serious thought.

"There is no doubt of my being able to take the paper," said Jones the next morning, "and if you will satisfy me of one thing I'll subscribe."

"Well let me hear," said Summers smiling.

"Why, Smith said you know, that the *Conductor* could be afforded at half price, and if no other considerations prevented, he would not en-ourage such a scheme of extortion by subscribing even for one year. Now, if I thought they were expecting to have a money making concern of it, I could not think of putting down my name." "You need be under no apprehensions on that score," answered Summers. "To issue even a monthly paper like the *Conductor* requires no inconsiderable amount of funds. With probably little exception, nothing can be obtained outside of the Order, and taking our own as a fair indication of the action of other Divisions throughout the State, the support will, at best, be a meagre one. Nor is it likely it would be better if the price were half a dollar, or the issue weekly, for, between ourselves, those who do not subscribe under present circumstances would not at all; hence we may see the wisdom of starting the paper according to the present plan. Since the organization of the Order, the Grand Division has used the most disinterested endeavours so promote the cause of temperance, and is it just, to impute to it other motives now?"

"I am convinced," said Jones. Here is my dollar, send it along with your own, and may I never give one for a less worthy object."—*Virginia Conductor*.

SHALL CHILDREN SIGN THE TEMPERANCE PLEDGE?

In the present movement among children and youth, the question comes up,—Shall they sign the temperance pledge? As many objections are made to it, we will briefly consider a few of the most prominent, with its reasonableness and benefits:

1. It is objected to their signing a pledge, that they are too young. But they are not too young to be drawn into the paths of the destroyer. And if they are not too young for this, they are not too young to be secured from it by every possible appliance.

2. It is requiring that of which they can have no proper acquaintance. This is not true, more than of any other act. Children can as well understand that they are not to taste of the intoxicating cup, as that they are not to lie, or steal, or break God's holy day; and why they should as properly promise not to do the one as the other. They may not understand exactly the chemical properties of alcoholic or drugged liquors as those farther advanced in life, but on the reasons for

abstaining from all which produces drunkenness, they need no enlightenment which they are not capable of receiving.

3. It is requiring them to bind themselves to that of which in ripper years they may disapprove, and which, if they follow, they may follow in hypocrisy, but which they will be most likely vilely to cast away.

This is the argument which is brought against all promises and pledges; all vows against making any profession of religion in the morning of life, or any devotedness of life to the Creator;—a principle on which society could not exist an hour. If it is our duty to do that which is right, it is no less so to pledge to do it, especially in a world where there are so many temptations to evil, and where every requisite is needed to preserve us in the path of duty.

These are the principal objections to children's signing the temperance pledge. Let us now look at some of the reasons why, with consent of parents, they should do it. We may view them in the light of instruction, of resolution, of example, and of power.

1. The very act of signing the pledge is one of instruction. It teaches the youthful mind that there is danger; that there is a present foe to its temporal and eternal well being; that resistance must be made, and a desperate resistance; that the mind must bring itself under a solemn resolution, and promise to Him to whom all hearts are open, that it will resist, and nothing shall overcome. Here, then, is instruction, and of the most important character. Children learn their exposedness to danger, and their power of resistance; their moral agency, and their responsibility. I look upon signing the pledge as one of the most instructive acts in the child's life. When Daniel and his companions resolved and pledged themselves to each other, that they would not drink the king's wine, they learned their power; they received a lesson which carried them through the den of lions, and through the fiery furnace. The teachings of this act were above all the teachings of magicians and astrologers to make them men.

Again, It is an act of resolution; an act of the will; an act of voluntary resistance to evil for securing a supreme good; and done early, it has a most happy and important influence on all the future. All the tendencies of man's nature are to self-indulgence. Like the smooth stream, his course is downward. Pleasure, the indulgence of appetite—the enjoyments of sense, no matter, at what cost—these are the first workings of depravity. And the arch deceiver leads along, saying—"Ye shall not surely die, but ye shall be as Gods, knowing good and evil." But there must be at some spot resistance, or there is death. The frail bark will move on swifter and swifter, until it plunges over the terrible cataract into the gulph of despair. Signing the pledge is one of the first acts of resistance to the death stream. The child who resolves with an understanding heart that he will neither taste, touch, nor handle the intoxicating cup, becomes his own early deliverer from the power of his innate depravity. He learns to say No! when the tempter says, "Do thus, and thou shalt live." An act of what vast importance in all after life no finite mind can easily tell. An act, which will ordinarily result in other similar resistances of temptation, until the child is safe in its eternal refuge. And it is an act, great as an example. None are too young to influence others. The power of influence is probably as great among the young