

# TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE & NEWS.

PLEDGE.—We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use Intoxicating Liquors as a Beverage, nor Traffic in them; that we will not provide them as an article of Entertainment, nor for persons in our Employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

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## Ministerial Example.

*The world looks at Ministers out of the Pulpit to see what they mean in it.—CECIL.*

"Surely, John," said Mary Heatherton to her husband, one Sabbath afternoon, "surely the sermon we heard this morning from good Mr. Hartley will help to bring you over to do what I have so often asked of you—join the Temperance Society."

"I did not hear anything about the Temperance Society in the sermon," replied the husband.

"True," answered his wife, "there was nothing said directly about it, but the point inculcated in the discourse was to 'avoid every appearance of evil,' and I do not see how it can be considered otherwise than evil, for christians to sanction, by their practice, customs which produce such dreadful consequences as the drinking habits of our times."

"If this had been one of the forms of 'evil appearance,'" replied the husband, "would not the preacher have alluded to it?"

"That is what perplexes me," answered his wife, "to me it appears as plainly to be within the rule of things forbidden by the precept, as any of the cases he referred to. He spoke of dancing, and said that although no one could declare the mere act of partaking in that amusement to be sinful in itself, yet inasmuch as the indulgence in it is carried to excess and involves its votaries, in many instances, in a train of frivolities, and leads them into the mazes of folly and vanity, it behoves christians to refrain from it entirely, in order that they may be free from the imputation of countenancing a practice which leads to so much evil."

"Yes," added the husband, "and he also referred to theatrical exhibitions; and while he admitted that there was no necessary and positive sinfulness in the simple act of personifying characters, and getting up scenic representations of lawful and proper subjects, yet he believed that, in our times, the system had had engrafted upon it so much that was corrupting and of evil tendency, that no follower of the Saviour could countenance by his presence the stage of the present day: and that even from those, who, from fixedness of principle, and stability of character, were themselves in no danger from such exhibitions, this practical condemnation of theatrical amusements was demanded by a regard to the effect of their example upon others, who might be subjected to evil influence by attendance upon such scenes."

"And do you not see, John," replied the wife, "how similar in principle these cases are, to the practice of using intoxicating liquors? It is undoubtedly not an actual sin, considered in itself, to partake of those liquors; but, looking to the wide prevalence of the habit of using them, their ensnaring nature, and the enormous evil they accomplish in the world, this practice surely must be set down with the others as having 'the appearance of evil.' Do you not see the applicability of this reasoning to the subject?"

"Have you been attending the Temperance lectures lately, Mary?" answered the husband, "you seem to have the arguments ready. I confess I do not just now see how I am to answer them, unless it is by putting in the plea that a little liquor is necessary to health and vigor of constitution."

The wife here rose from her seat and took a small volume from a shelf, from which she read as follows: "Two thousand of the most distinguished Medical men, among whom are Dr. Arnot, Physician to the Queen; Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sergeant Surgeon to Her Majesty; Dr. Chambers, Physician to the Queen; Sir James Macgregor, Director General of the Army Medical department; Drs. Allison, Syme, Henderson, of Edinburgh University; and Drs. Cooper and Thompson, of Glasgow University; have appended their names to a Medical testimony, which among other things, asserts, 'that total and entire abstinence from alcoholic liquors and intoxicating beverages of all sorts would greatly contribute to the health, the prosperity, the morality, and the happiness of the human race.'"

"Well, well," said the husband, "we will not argue the matter any further, just now, I shall"—

"Good afternoon, neighbors," shouted an acquaintance, who just then entered the pleasant little parlor of the couple to whom we have been listening, "how-do-you-do?"

"All well, Willie," answered John, "but you do not look as if all was right with you; this comes from keeping bad hours, I suppose. What were you doing out so late when I met you in Ninth street last night?"

"I was returning from Parson Hartley's where I had been on a message from the store. You must know," added their light hearted visitor, "that I have changed my place since I last saw you; I have got a situation in the establishments of Storway & Co., the wine merchants, of Poole-street, and when I met you I had been up to Mr. Hartley's with some samples of wine. The Parson knows what is good."

Mary and John here exchanged glances, the latter looking at his wife as if he felt a reinforcement had come to his side, but Mary's look was sad. Their voluble companion however did not observe them, but went on—

"I have to go that way often; Mr. H. is a good customer of the house, and always gets the best of every thing.—But I must be off, for there's George Hall going down the street; I've been looking for him all the afternoon,—good bye."

For a few minutes after their visitor's departure, the husband and wife were silent. John was the first to speak.

"You see, Mary, you were too hasty in coming to the conclusion that it is not allowable to take a little liquor, and that the drinking customs stand on the same footing as the practices of theatre-going and dancing. Our Minister uses wine, and now that I think of it, he attends public dinners, where wine is used and toasts drank. I did not think of this before."

"I confess that his practice favors your side," replied the wife, "but much as I have always respected him, I cannot be convinced that he acts consistently with the principles he