

[ORIGINAL]

## Able to Save.

By J. J. GARTSHORE.



On October of 1883, I had occasion to visit the town of \_\_\_\_\_, in western Ontario, on business. Finding the gentleman I wanted to see had left for a day or two, I was a good deal disappointed, having made an appointment in connection with, to me, a very important matter. After dinner at the hotel, I started out for a walk till time for next train. Out of the bar-room stumbled a man who looked the very picture of wretchedness, his lip cut, one eye black, and he staggering from side to side in a sad state of intoxication.

He accosted me with the question "Are you going this way?" I tried to evade him but he persisted in carrying on the conversation and in order to get on without trouble I spoke kindly to the man. After putting some questions to him about his occupation and family, I asked "When are you going to give up this terrible drink which is ruining you, body and soul." His answer was, "Oh I suppose—when I die." I can't help it, I have taken pledge after pledge, have promised my wife and little girl over and over again but its no use," and then interjected a terrible oath using the name of Jesus Christ. I looked him in the face and said "if you only knew Him whose name you are taking in vain as *your own Saviour*, you would have a power to overcome the terrible habit." "If I only knew Jesus Christ, if I only knew Jesus Christ" he repeated, "nobody everspoke to me that way before; will you come home with me? I have a nice little family of four children but, oh, such a desolate home all through whiskey." I went on with the poor fellow towards his house. It was something I had often read of a drunkard's home, but never saw such a sight before, the little children cowering in a corner, no furniture in the room but two wooden chairs, and the poor wife broken hearted, was ashamed to come in. During our walk I had told him of Christ's love for poor sinners, the free offer of pardon to the guilty, the promise of help to those who put their trust in Him, quoting God's word which offers a free salvation to "whosoever will" After the home was reached, an old family bible was brought down and the passages looked up. The poor man said "will the Lord hear a vile drunkard like me if I pray to Him"? I answered He came "not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." The wife entering at this time began to tell me of her husband's hard usage and the wretchedness which drink had brought upon them, but I answer-

ed her that life had decided by God's help to give it up. We all knelt down and I prayed earnestly for the man. When we got up from our knees, he took 25c out of his pocket and handed it to his wife saying, "Here Annie that was for whiskey, God helping me I will never taste another drop," and the poor fellow would hardly let me go. I left him promising to write and send some good reading matter. Five days after letters were received from him and his wife stating that he had kept his word, that he had not been so long without liquor for two years. His letter stated that God's word had taken hold of him and showed him his sinfulness as he had never seen it before, and he wondered if there could be mercy for him. I replied fully, stating from God's word that the ransom *had been* paid and that salvation was for him if he would accept it in God's way. Many prayers went up to our loving Father that He would bless His own truth to this dark, hard heart, and thanks be to His name He did answer, and a bright happy letter announced in a week or so that now he had Christ as his Saviour, and that the victory was his through Him who loved him and gave Himself for him. This was the dawn of a new day. In answer to prayer all desire for liquor was taken away, new hope for the future came into his heart, life in that home was now as it had never been before, and after sixteen years of slavery he was enabled to step into "the glorious liberty of the children of God." Three months after, I had occasion to call at that place. My friend met me at the station, but so altered I did not know him, I was taken to the home, now so changed, well furnished, every comfort and the family bright and happy from the parents to the youngest child.

The new life implanted by the Spirit of God has grown and is still growing, "old things have passed away, all things have become new" and in a recent letter the following words tell of the Grace of God which is being multiplied day by day.

"I was reading a sketch of John B. Gough's life and I see that he could not stand until he trusted in Christ's strength. My own past experience came before me as it never had done before, how often I tried but it was all in vain until I claimed Christ as my Saviour and fully trusted in his gracious promises, and have found him to be a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A MAN may read the figures on the dial, but he cannot tell how the day goes unless the sun shines on the dial; we may read the Bible over, but we cannot learn to purpose till the Spirit of God shine into our hearts.—*Watson.*