

saved from hell,—“father, mother! give up drinking.”

But intemperance is not your habit. You never become intoxicated with strong drink; you have a comfortable, peaceful home, so far as that is concerned, and these remarks do not apply to you.

I am heartily glad of it, dear friend: and I rejoice that, among the parents of our scholars are so many whose sobriety and temperance is worthy of being held up to persons in higher or more affluent circumstances. To such let me offer sincere congratulations that, in spite, doubtless, of many temptations, you have in this respect maintained a character void of offence towards God and towards men. There is hope for your children, that they, copying your example, may add to the ranks of the lovers of temperance, when your course in this world shall have ended,—nevertheless, one word or two to you.

Among the families of which our scholars form parts, are very many which though not justly chargeable with insobriety, do certainly consume no inconsiderable proportion of small incomes in beverages which are, to say the least of them, unnecessary for health and comfort.

Well, as I have just observed, and to speak out plainly, I believe that many of the parents of our scholars, though not intemperate, in the common meaning of the term, spend far too much money in beer, and other exciting drinks;—too much for their own health; too much for their circumstances; too much for their children's benefit.

I will take the case—no uncommon one—of a man whose weekly earnings may be twenty shillings, all the year round; and who thinks himself justified in spending six-pence a day, one day with another, in beer, either for himself alone, or for himself and his wife. This, I repeat, is no extreme case; but one which may be met with in the families of hundreds of working men, whose children are to be found

among our scholars, and I fear that, very frequently, the same amount of expenditure would be found connected with a much lower rate of wages.

But let us look at the matter in as good a light as may be: in the case supposed, or stated, there is rather more than a sixth part of the man's earnings made off with in a needless indulgence—yes, needless—for leniently as we would judge, there is not the shadow of a reason to suppose that beer-drinking is absolutely necessary to health and strength.

Now, were I talking with such a one, I would say,—Your whole income is fifty-two pounds a year: your beer alone costs you nine pounds; is it not a pity that so large a sum should be spent, I will not say upon a sinful indulgence, but on a luxury, which, by a little self-denial, might be cut off? Think what a number of real comforts of life, nine pounds a year would procure—not selfish, but social family enjoyments. Why, this sum, wisely and economically expended, would go far towards a constant supply of fresh meat at your table; and surely beef and mutton are better than beer.

Or, if you and your children have already as much strengthening food as you require, nine pounds thus saved, year after year, in the course of two or three years, would furnish every room in your house with useful furniture—good beds, bedsteads, chairs, tables, carpets, and many other articles which you may call to mind as easily as I could enumerate.

Or, if you have the blessing of a well-furnished house, nine pounds a year would be far more than perhaps you would think of spending on books; but books against beer at all events; and such a sum, or the half of it, would procure a valuable library for yourself and your children. And, rely upon it, this is not a matter to be overlooked. In being taught to read, your children have a valuable talent entrusted to them, which it becomes you to see that they improve.