

# THE LIFE BOAT:

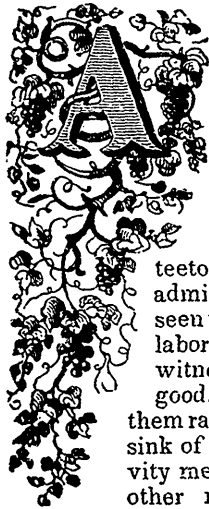
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## A Teetotaler's Story.



**A**MONG the energetic workers of the present day, the teetotalers are unquestionably entitled to take a first place. Those who are not teetotalers cheerfully admit this. We have seen the fruits of their labors, and can bear witness that they are good. We have seen them rise from the very sink of vice and depravity men whom every other missionary had abandoned in despair. We know many whom they have elevated from pauperism into comfort, from pollution into cleanliness, from degradation into respectability, from habitual drunkenness into habitual sobriety.

Many are the thrilling tales that teetotalers could tell, of men dragged from the slough of sin into the pure air and sunlight of social well-being and well-doing. But teetotalers are not literary; the hardest workers among them are working men, who have been their own

educators. They have no time to write tales, even if they had the literary culture. But teetotal literature is advancing, and the day may come when some genius may arise from the ranks of the teetotalers, to portray the condition of the drunkard, and stir up a universal desire to alleviate their lot, and rescue them from the depths of vice and misery.

We shall never forget a tale of a rescued drunkard, told by one of the teetotal lecturers. It was a statement of his own experience, and its truth can at this day be attested by thousands. The story was told in a rather broad, uncouth dialect, for the speaker had originally been a factory workman, and had raised himself by his own industry and energy, chiefly in this very teetotal cause, to a respectable and highly useful position in society. We despair of being able to impart to our readers the full force of the story as told by the narrator, or to produce anything like the thrilling effect which he produced upon the meeting in question—for there is an electric influence in the spoken words which is lost when it is attempted to commit them to the written paper: "I was out on my first teetotal