

"Yes, I know it, but I have only got two cents this evening. There, Mr. Pease, take them, it is all I have got in the world; what more can I give?"

Sure enough, what could he do more? I took them and prayed over them, that in parting with the last penny, this couple might have parted with a vice, a wicked, foolish practice which had reduced them to such a degree of poverty and wretchedness, that the monster power of rum could hardly send its victims lower.

So Tom and Mag were transformed into Mr. and Mrs. Elting, and having grown somewhat more sober while in the house, seemed to fully understand their new position, and all the obligations they had taken upon themselves.

For a few days I thought occasionally of this two-penny marriage, and then it became absorbed with a thousand other scenes of wretchedness which I have witnessed since I have lived in this center of city misery. Time wore on and I married many other couples—often those who came in their carriage and left a golden marriage fee—a delicate way of giving to the needy—but among all I had never performed the rite for a couple quite so low as that of this two-penny fee, and I resolved I never would again. At length, however, I had a call for a full match to them, which I refused.

"Why do you come to me to be married, my friend," said I to the man? You are both too poor to live separate, and besides you are both terrible drunkards, I know you are."

"That is just what we want to get married for, and take the pledge."

"Take that first."

"No, we must take all together, nothing else will save us."

"Will that?"

"It did one of my friends."

"Well, then, go and bring that friend here; let me see and hear how much it saved him, and then I will make up my mind what to do; if I can do you any good, I want to do it."

"My friend is at work—he has got a good job and several hands working for him, and is making money, and won't quit till night. Shall I come this evening?"

"Yes, I will stay at home and wait for you."

I little expected to see him again; but about 8 o'clock the servant said that man and his girl, with a gentleman and lady, were waiting in the reception room. I told him to ask the lady and gentleman to walk up to the parlor and sit a moment, while I sent the candidates for marriage away, being determined never to unite another drunken couple, not dreaming that there was any sympathy between the parties. But they would not come up; they wanted to see that couple married. So I went down and found the squalidly wretched pair in company with a well-dressed labouring man, for he wore a fine black coat, silk vest, gold watch chain, clean white shirt and cravat, polished calf-skin boots; and his wife was just as neat and tidily dressed as anybody's wife, and her face beamed with intelligence, and the way in which she clung to the arm of her husband, as she seemed to shrink from my sight, told that she was a loving as well as pretty wife.

"This couple," says the gentleman, "have come to be married."

"Yes, I know it, but I have refused. Look at them; do they look like fit subjects for such a holy ordinance? God never intended those whom he created in his own image should live in matrimony like this man and woman. I cannot marry them."

"Cannot! Why not? You married us when we were worse off—more dirty—worse clothed, and more intoxicated."

The woman shrunk back a little more out of sight. I saw

she trembled violently, and put her clean cambric handkerchief up to her eyes.

What could it mean? Married them when worse off? Who were they?

"Have you forgotten us?" said the woman, taking my hands in hers, and dropping on her knees; "have you forgotten drunken Tom and Mag? We have never forgotten you, but pray for you every day?"

"If you have forgotten them, you have not forgotten the two-penny marriage. No wonder you did not know us. I told Matilda she need not be afraid, or ashamed, if you did know her. But I knew you would not. How could you? We were in rags and dirt then. Look at us now. All your work, Sir. All the blessing of that pledge and that marriage, and that good advice you gave us. Look at this suit of clothes, and her dress—all Matilda's work, every stitch of it. Come and look at our house, as neat as she is. Everything in it to make a comfortable home; and oh, Sir, there is a cradle in our bedroom. Five hundred dollars already in bank, and I shall add as much more next week when I finish my job. So much for one year of a sober life, and a faithful, honest, good wife. Now, this man is as good a workman as I am, only he is bound down with the galling fetters of drunkenness, and living with this woman just as I did. Now, he thinks that he can reform just as well as me; but he thinks he must take the pledge of the same man, and have his first effort sanctified with the same blessing, and then, with a good resolution, and Matilda and me to watch over them, I do believe they will succeed."

So they did. So may others by the same means. I married them, and as I shook hands with Mr. Elting, at parting, he left two coins in my hand, with the simple remark that there was another two-penny marriage fee. I was in hopes that it might have been a couple of dollars this time, but I said nothing, and we parted with a mutual "God bless you." When I went up stairs I tossed the coins into my wife's lap, with the remark, "two pennies again, my dear."

"Two pennies! Why, husband, they are eagles—real golden eagles. What a deal of good they will do. What blessings have followed that act."

"And will follow the present, if the pledge is faithfully kept. Truly, this is a good result of a Two-Penny Marriage."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

### Conference of the British Association for the Promotion of Temperance.

The Nineteenth Annual Conference of this Association has just concluded its sittings and deliberations. This year the delegates and members of Conference met in the ancient city of York, and the attendance was unusually large. The principal topic of discussion and interest was the subject of the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic. That principle, as a principle of legislation, it was felt by many, could not be formally deliberated upon, with a view to any practical political action, by the Conference, whose constitution seemed to pledge it to base and conduct its direct and general operations upon the grounds of moral suasion. Considerable and unusual efforts were put forth lest the Conference should blindly and hastily commit the Association to any expression of approval and sympathy towards the Maine Law in America, or any agitation for a similar enactment in this country.

On the first day was a proposition in favor of the prohibition of the Sunday traffic in strong drink. This resolution was ably moved, earnestly seconded, and warmly supported by various speakers.

On the second day, the public breakfast despatched, Conference assembled at 9 A.M. The President took his seat, and called the mover of the adjournment at the previous sitting to the tribune. No amendment had been shaped. Objections, and difficulties, and arguments were in the speaker's mind, but the time to enun-