

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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The Pleasure Excursion; or, the Consequences of Deception.

BY C. W. WARREN.

At the close of a sultry day in the month of August, in the year 18—, two young men might have been seen standing in front of a public house in the little village of N—, discussing, apparently, a very interesting matter. Let us hear what they say.

"He's a teetotaler, is he? ha! ha! ha!" and the young man laughed that confident, derisive laugh, that is characteristic of a person who thinks every one wrong but himself.

"Yes, he's a teetotaler, and a strong one, too, if I may judge by the way he takes hold of other matters," returned his companion.

"He won't join our party, then, if we have wine, to enliven us on the occasion?"

"No, I think not. And, I tell you, George, we had better give up the party then to think of going without him.—He will be, emphatically, the life of it."

"Yes, yes; the girls would never consent to go without him—and especially Lucy Martin. And, by the way, I think there is something of a tender feeling existing between Austin and Lucy. What say you, Joe?"

"Well, I rather think so. But are you going to give up your champagne for this once, or not? let's decide it at once."

"Let me see him first. Perhaps I can overcome his prejudices."

"There's no use trying, for he's as firm as the rock of Gibraltar."

"We shall see," returned his companion, after which they separated.

Austin Heart, the subject of the above conversation, had taken up his residence in N— about one year previous to the commencement of our story. He had formerly resided in a city somewhat remote from the village, and had removed thither in order to prosecute more effectually the business in which he was engaged. His companions in early life were those whose example was not conducive to a healthful morality; and through their influence he had, in a measure, formed within himself a love for the intoxicating cup. He soon saw, however, the effect it was producing upon him, and resolved to break asunder the cords that bound him, ere it was too late. One vigorous effort and he was free. True, it cost a struggle, but the result amply rewarded him. The society into which he was brought on taking up his residence in N—, was not such as would tend to strengthen his temperance principles; yet he resolved that come what might he would not swerve from his duty. A majority of the young men comprising the circle in which he moved, were fond of their glass of wine occasionally, and thought it no harm if they were found, now and then, "half seas over." He had been but a short time in N—, when arrangements

were made for an excursion upon a neighboring lake by the two young men we have before introduced. When Joseph Howell requested his company, he inquired very naturally what the arrangements were to be.

"We intend to start from the landing just below the big willow tree," returned Joseph, "and proceed about three miles down the lake, when we shall arrive at a beautiful grove where we will land, and being provided with wine and other refreshments, we will have a right merry time of it."

As soon as Austin learned that his old enemy was to be introduced, he immediately returned a negative answer to Joe's inquiry as to whether he would go. Joe felt chagrined when Austin gave his reason for his refusal, stating, in the meantime, that he would consent to go if they would take no wine. Finding he could not prevail on Austin to go under present arrangements, Joe sought out his friend, George Manchester, who was to make one of the party, and communicated Austin's refusal to him. What the result was the reader has already been informed. In the course of the day, George called upon Austin with the full assurance that he could prevail upon him to give up his "fanatical notions," as he termed them. Austin, however, steadily refused to go under the present arrangements.

"Well, if it must be so," returned George, "why, I suppose we can't give up the party—so just get ready, and we'll try to enjoy ourselves; although cold water has not a merry-making tendency."

George Manchester was paying his attentions to a young lady by the name of Julia Crawford, who was a very sensible sort of a girl, and withal rather pretty. Her good sense, however, did not lead her to see that her beau was rather too much given to wine; which fault is rather too generally overlooked by young ladies, even in our day. She was the daughter of Widow Crawford, whose husband had been dead about four years. She was an only child, and since her father's death her mother's affections were entirely centred in her, and she was allowed to have her every wish gratified.

Joseph Howell's girl, Mary Clifford, was an intelligent, well-principled lady, who saw and mourned over the faults of Joe, and determined, when a fitting opportunity should offer, to speak to him on the subject; for she loved him with her whole heart, notwithstanding his faults.

Of Lucy Martin, who completed the whole party of six, we propose to say a few words. She was what might be termed handsome; and saying this would be but little in comparison to what her real beauty merited. She possessed, also, a kind and loving disposition—graces not always combined in the person of one woman. Before Austin's arrival in the village, her company had been sought after by a number of the young men of the place; but she was too well acquainted with their dissolute habits to encourage their advances. As soon as she became acquainted with Austin, however, she found that he was of a different stamp entirely

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