

THE CANADA

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE,

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE & NEWS.

PLEASANTLY.—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 personal or Family Employment; and that in all the above ways we will discontinue them. It was throughout the year 1851.

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[FOR THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.]

The Pledge Broken, and the Pledge Kept.

BY A DAUGHTER OF ENGLAND. WATERLOO.

It was late one evening, in a pretty little sea-port town in the north of England, that two young men might be seen strolling along side by side beneath some trees which ornamented the grounds of a large building, into which many individuals were hastening. There was something pleasing in the countenance of each; and both were at that stage in life when the youth takes his place in the world—a man among men. Clifton was an orphan, whose fortune was enough to enable him to choose a profession, and no more; he was a lawyer. Herman was the adopted child of a wealthy manufacturer, his uncle; who now wished to retire and resign all to his nephew's hands. The young men had been educated together, and were strongly attached to each other; both were amiable in disposition, but neither were acquainted with that vital power of religion that governs the heart as well as the life. Herman was to remain in his native town; but Clifton, who wished to be in the world, had embraced an opening in a large city, and was on the eve of departure. While walking thus, they were accosted by a stranger, who enquired if the Temperance Meeting was to be held in that building, and being answered in the affirmative, he entered it hastily, and the youths, having nothing else to do, followed him in. The place was crowded: the speakers eloquent, earnest, impressive. The last who arose was the stranger who had met them. His words were addressed to youth, and made a deep impression on Clifton and Herman, but especially the latter, though more for his friend's sake than his own; and he listened with deep attention to the earnest words, "Sign the pledge, dash the fatal cup to the ground, withdraw your selves from that whirlpool, into whose outmost waves you are now venturing, and into whose horrible centre you may ere long be hurried, within whose boiling, foaming eddy you may die the drunkard's death. My friends, a solemn vow is not easily trampled on: it is no light thing to break the pledge. But rely not on yourselves, look to the strong arm strength; and the grace of God shall be sufficient for you. Ye who find the pathway dark, religion can make it light; ye who find it light, she can make it lighter still. Stand forth, then, join this band, sign this pledge, and the God of Heaven give ye strength to keep it." The impassioned manner, the fervent feeling of the speaker, had an effect equal to his words; many names were written down that night; among the rest, were those of Clifton and Herman.

Six months rolled past, the pledge was kept. To Herman the task was easy, the fatal glass had no charms for him. With Clifton the case was different. He had been remarked at College

for an occasional yielding to excess; and his friend felt very anxious for him. The uncle of Herman was much pleased with his steady application to business; but as the health of the youth suffered from confinement, he was induced by his uncle's wish to spend a few weeks in the city with his friend, for change of scene. He found him increasing in favor with the public, and attentive to his duties, even more than he had dared to hope; and after spending ten days pleasantly with him, returned home. In journeying back, he encountered the same stranger who had influenced him so much on the night of the meeting. The recognition was mutual; and they travelled a day in company. There was much discourse by the way. The young man's errors were kindly pointed out; his false views on religious matters corrected; the study of the Bible pressed upon him; and thus, when again alone, Herman came to the conclusion that he was in the wrong path, and had the right one set to seek. He was not left to grope in darkness; he was able ere long to hail the Saviour proclaimed in the Gospel as his Saviour, and to trust in him alone. Then he wrote to his friend, urging on him the need of a firmer foundation than his own merits to rest on. Clifton, meanwhile, had formed an acquaintance with some young men of dissipated habits, one of whom was an infidel; with these, all the time he could spare, and sometimes more, was spent; and thus the letters of his friend sounded strange to him; he could not understand them, and at last set Herman down as a proselyte. His new acquaintances, who had caught hold of one of Herman's letters, confirmed him in this opinion, and tried to shake his attachment to that friend he had once so loved. They assailed him, too, on more points than one. While this party tempted him to be untrue to his friend, another urged him to be false to his pledge, and a third to be false to his God. The whole soul of Clifton rose against the words of infidelity to confute them, but the temptation to break the pledge was strong: the novelty was over; the ridicule he met with was hard to endure; he might surely take a little without betraying himself; he wished the promise was broken. One thing still deterred the rash deed. Herman had promised to spend the Christmas with him, and the time was fast approaching. Clifton wished to see his friend, and yet feared. The Spirit of God was striving with him, but he shut his heart against the voice; but as the time drew near, he forgot his fears, and longed for the coming of Herman with an earnest affection that his friends' companions rather thought he had long ceased to feel. The wished-for night arrived, but, alas, it brought no Herman. A brief and agitated note instead, told the reason of his absence—the sudden and violent illness of his uncle. This disappointment, to the already excited mind of Clifton, was very great. He hastened to his constant associates; for he shrank from solitude now. The reason of Herman's absence was demanded, and Clifton read them the note