

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 Pledge.—Chapter II.

Mr. Arlington, the person to whose good offices James Latimer was indebted for the interview with his father, as just related, was not the man to lift a poor human being out of the mire and filth of moral pollution, inspired by a momentary impulse, and then let him fall again, to sink deeper than before. No. Benevolence, with him, sprang from a religious principle. He was one of those temperate men who act not from mere enthusiasm, but from a deeply-grounded and ever-living desire to benefit mankind.

When James left the building where he had witnessed the death of his father, he was not permitted to wander away and be left to himself again, with all his evil desires and appetites struggling to regain their mastery over him.

"What are you going to do now, my young friend?" asked Mr. Arlington, as they walked away from the hospital.

"Going to do?" The question had not of itself occurred to James, and he was unprepared to answer it.

"Yes. Are you engaged in any kind of employment?"

"No. I can't get anything to do?"

"What can you do?" asked Mr. Arlington.

"Do?"

"Yes. Have you a trade?"

"No, sir."

"What have you done since you were in New York?"

"I've kept bar."

Mr. Arlington shook his head.

"How old are you?" he asked.

"Nineteen."

"Not too late, yet, to learn an honest trade, if you are willing to do so."

"I am willing to do any thing," replied James, "rather than lead the wretched life I have known in this city."

"You must go home with me," said Mr. Arlington, after thinking a little while, "and we will talk this matter all over, and determine what is best to be done."

James looked down at his miserable apparel, and then shook his head.

"Why not?" asked this kind friend.

"I am not fit to go into a decent person's house."

Mr. Arlington understood, very well, that clean and decent apparel was absolutely necessary for James as a means of sustaining him in the sudden and good resolutions he had formed. He knew that even his pledge would not hold him up, if his person remained filthy and his garments unclean. And he felt it to be as much a duty to supply this absolute want, as to take the initiative step in his reformation. He therefore provided him with an entire new suit of coarse, but good clothing; and then took him to a public bath-house that he might thoroughly cleanse his person. After this he introduced him into his own family and kept a watchful eye over him for a few days. During this time James was employed about the shop; but Mr. Arlington was careful not to send him out upon errands, except occasionally, for fear that he might fall in with some of his old companions and be led off by them. One morning, after James had been with him for about a week, Mr. Arlington said—

"It is not too late for you to learn a trade, and I think you had better set about it immediately. There is nothing like regular employment to sustain the mind in its good resolutions. Besides, you will soon be a man, and must then have the ability to support yourself. I have an old friend in Newark, New Jersey,

who is a very kind man. He carries on the cabinet-making business, and, I know, wants an apprentice. If I give you a letter to him, he will take you. What do you think of this?"

"I am ready to go, sir," was James' prompt reply.

"Very well. To night I will write a letter to my friend, Mr Seymour, and you can start for Newark in the boat to-morrow morning. You will have a good place, and be removed from the temptations of a great city like this."

Gladly did James Latimer embrace this opportunity to get away from the city and obtain a good place. Since he had taken the pledge, and been introduced among pure-minded, virtuous and intelligent persons, his mind had felt an earnest desire to become as good and as respectable as those around him. The offer of so good a place as Mr. Arlington represented the one to which he was going, to be, and the prospect of acquiring an honest and profitable trade, elevated the spirits of the young man, and made him feel happier than he had ever been since that first innocent period of childhood, ere the bottle came in with its companions, sin and misery.

Mr. Arlington accompanied James to the boat on the next day, and after paying his passage to Newark, most earnestly and affectionately admonished him not to forget the pledge he had taken, nor to lose sight, for a moment, of the fact, that if he would continue steadily to look up, he would certainly rise into respectability, and become a prosperous and happy man. James promised every thing, and parted with his benefactor with tears in his eyes.

It was a bright and beautiful day, and as the boat went rushing through the sparkling water, James experienced a sense of exhilaration and buoyancy that excited his wonder. He felt like a new being. True purposes, and the effort to act from these purposes, introduced him into a new and purer spiritual association. Passion, evil lust, and debasing appetite, were at rest, and right thoughts and feelings were ruling in his mind.

"I can and I will lead a better life," he said to himself, resolutely. "The way is now plain before me, and I will walk in it with a firm step."

When the boat landed at Newark, James made inquiry for Mr. Seymour, and, on finding him, presented his letter of introduction. Mr. Seymour he thought a much graver man than Mr. Arlington, and, he did not, at first, feel very comfortable in his presence. The letter was read twice through before a remark was made.

"Well, young man," said Mr. Seymour, at length, looking up at him, and regarding him intently. "What my good friend, Mr. Arlington, says of your past life doesn't promise much for the future; but the pledge, which he says you have taken, promises every thing; though I am afraid you are almost too old to learn my trade as well as you ought to know it by the time you are of age. However, there is nothing like trying; and, if you will do your best, no doubt in the end you will make a good workman."

"I can only try, sir," returned James, soberly.

"Try. Yes; if you will try earnestly, my young friend, there is no fear. You have entered the right way, and if you diligently attend to your steps, success, prosperity and happiness will surely be reached. Doubtless, you understand that in entering my family, you must conform to the rules, and be governed by the strictest regard to what is orderly and decorous. I permit, neither in my shop nor house, the use of profane or indecent language. I