

life. Being an expert tradesman, the external respectability and worldly comforts of the family are such as formerly they were strangers to. His wife through life has been a sober, well-doing person, and some faint idea may be formed of the happiness which now fills her bosom. Abstinence she declares was the instrument in the hand of God of effecting the blessed change.

Mrs — is a widow. She has been a member for a lengthened period, probably fifteen years; previously she was much addicted to drink, but is now living under the influence of the truths of the gospel. The circumstances attending her case are all of a cheering description her intemperate career she lived in the immediate vicinity of a public house, at which she was almost constantly employed. She was a most accomplished and expert laundress; and a great deal of this description of work falling to be done there, she was to the house in this respect a most important personage; but beyond this, all that she earned went to the coffers of the publican. The chagrin of mine host and hostess was awful, when they discovered that she had taken the pledge; and doubly was this increased, if that were possible, as week succeeded week, and still she seemed resolute in her determination to abide by the principle she has espoused. Their prophecies, and many besides, were, that a very short time would suffice to cure her new-frangled notions. Time rolled on, however, and miserably were they disappointed. Many were the baits and snares which were laid in her way; to several of the persons who frequented the house inducements were held out could they only effect her estrangement from the pledge. On one occasion, to a drinking party who were carousing in the house, the landlord offered a brown bowl of toddy; but their every attempt failed. Weeks, months, and years flew past, and witnessed this formerly misguided woman improving rapidly in her circumstances, abundance of employment was within her reach, her earnings were appropriated to their right use, and wondrous was the change. But not to her own use only were these earnings devoted; some helpless orphan children (grandchildren, I think) were brought to reside with her, and all their wants cared for. But the reformation did not terminate here, she commenced to attend the ministry of the Rev Mr —, and after a time was admitted in communion. The circle is but limited who know the real worth of —. Beneath her humble and unpretending exterior, however, throbs a soil which is alive to the magnitude of the debt it owes to redeeming love. Many years have now fled past since the night that — signed the pledge; but still she rejoices in the step thus taken—designating that step as the initiatory one to all her after bliss, temporal and spiritual; yes she fears

That Jesus' name she ne'er had known,
Had she her drink retained.

And what of the publican and his family? Alas! they are no more. The house they once occupied, and in which they were surrounded with abundance, is now occupied by others; reverse after reverse followed in rapid succession, some of them are in the grave, whilst others of them are reduced to beggary.

It is upwards of seven years since I first saw —. I had been sent at the instance of a friend of his; it was a most touching scene. Being a young man possessed of many natural amiable qualities, he was frequently led away

by a circle of intemperate companions. At the time of my calling, he was just recovering from an attack of delirium tremens; still, his recovery was not so far advanced as wholly to relieve the anxious fears of his sorrowing relatives, whom I found seated around his bedside. Gradually, however, he recovered, and deeply penitent, to all appearance, he determined, so soon as restored to move about in the bustle of life, that his ways should be amended, and the intoxicating cup abandoned for ever. His recovery was satisfactory, and all his good resolves put into practice: for a time he adhered strictly to the pledge, to the delight of those same relatives, who at one time entertained but feeble hope of his again resuming his place in this life. But oh! how strong is the power of temptation, and godless associates: they waylaid his every step, and with the coils of their subtle snares, again they entangled him into the meshes of their iniquitous ways. Deeply as this is to be deplored, it mitigated the feelings of anguish, both in the breast of himself and relatives, that he had not proceeded to the lengths he had formerly done. Again he listened to wisdom's counsels, and, with a heart doubly broken and subdued he renewed the step formerly taken. He is now at the head of a respectable, and growing business, but beyond this, he is now a member of the Christian Church; and may he there remain, till life's warfare is accomplished. How numerous are the temptations that surround the path of every reformed inebriate. Would that the day was at hand when these shall be swept completely, and for ever, out of their way to happiness and well-doing.

— is a person over whose early history a veil may well be drawn. He has been a faithful adherent of the cause for a number of years. Before joining he had almost broken the heart of his wife, by his frightful excesses, and the violence by which these were accompanied. Despairing of his reformation, she at length determined to separate from him; and on his preparing to leave home one morning, after a lengthened debauch, she told him, with tearful eyes, and choking voice, that they must now part—she had no hope of his reformation, for even woman's love must die under such conduct and cruelty as his, and she pled for her children as only a mother can, in burning words, wrung out from the agony of her crushed spirit. He left the house, but her words had entered his soul, and he wandered about the country, racked by the tortures of an accusing conscience; his past misdeeds to his family, through intemperance, and his sinfulness in the sight of God, rising in fearful distinctness before him. Late in the evening, he sought his home, and happy was his poor wife to see him, notwithstanding all his faults, for his lengthened absence had alarmed her, lest her threat had driven him to do himself some bodily harm. Next morning, after breakfast, he asked if he could have a sixpence. Poor wife! how many sixpences had he wrung from her to carry on his debauches! It was little wonder then that she retorted, "Are you not ashamed to ask such a thing, after all you have wasted?" But it was not this time to be wasted; the teetotal meeting was in the evening, and he said he had resolved to join. Fearing much, yet grasping with eagerness at any chance of saving him, she gave him the money, and said that would he but take the pledge, and keep it, she would deem it one of the best spent sixpences during their married life. That

night he did so; years have passed since then, and still he is faithful to his promise. He is now a respectable member of society—is a member in a certain congregation—in short, a new man, the pride of the household he so long disgraced, the joy of the heart he had so long crushed, and so nearly broken, and now fulfils the great end of his creation—"glorifying God."

And thus, for the present, I close these incidents, hoping their perusal may, in some degree, have awakened an interest in the bosoms of some, towards this growing cause; and also, the number of those united to this principle, something may have been said to animate them with renewed vigour in waging war with this huge iniquity. Oh that the Christian community would weigh this matter! Surely it is worthy of their consideration—whether a cause producing such fruit, does not deserve their unqualified approbation instead of coldness and contempt, if not active hostility. Our peace rejoicings are still in the distance, but most assuredly a generation will arise, which will one day enter the sanctuaries of the land, to unite in thanksgivings to the Almighty for the emancipation of our poor country from the thralldom of the grim tyrant. Oh, then, look upward!—move onward!—think on the sacrifices of men clothed with the like infirmities that we have, in seeking the accomplishment of their lofty objects, they had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, of bonds and imprisonment; they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword, destitute, afflicted, tormented, of whom the world was not worthy. And this self-denying faith may still be witnessed, in some measure, in more modern times. What can the devoted missionary; amid the eternal snows of Greenland, after many years of laborious toil, find to fall back upon in the absence of fruit? Faith—a never-failing faith! Let a like faith animate us, and as sure as to-morrow's sun will gild our sin-polluted land, just as surely will it one day shed its cheering beams upon a ransomed race. What a position then is ours! Co-workers with God in bringing about this blessed advent! May we, one and all, after our warfare is accomplished—fall asleep in Jesus—and who can tell, we may look down from the upper sanctuary upon the consummation of our labours? One thing is certain, we shall rest from these, and our works shall follow us.

ALCOHOL LEADING TO IDIOCY.

Dr Howe, in his report on idiocy, to the Legislature of Massachusetts, makes the following striking statement.—"The habits of the parents of three hundred of the idiots were learned, and one hundred and forty-five, or nearly one-half, are reported as known to be habitual drunkards. Such parents, it is affirmed, give a weak and lax constitution to their children, who are consequently, deficient in bodily and vital energy, and predisposed by their very organisation to have cravings for alcoholic stimulants. Many of these children are feeble and live irregularly. Having a lower vitality, they feel the want of some stimulation. If they pursue the course of their fathers, and which they have more temptation to follow, and less power to avoid, than the children of the temperate, they add to their hereditary weakness, and increase the tendency to idleness in their constitution; and this they leave to their children after