

The First Glass.



None of our colleges, several years ago, was a young man possessed of fine mind, excellent attainments, and pleasing manners—the life of the social circle and the favorite of all. He was not only a pleasant but a safe companion, for he was free from the vices with which some of the young men who frequent college halls are familiar. The inebriating cup had never passed his lips.

But there came a time when the snare of the tempter was thrown around him, and he had not the power to break away.

At an evening party wine formed part of the entertainment, and the sparkling cup was offered him by a gay young lady. Surely he could not refuse to drink just one glass with her? There could be no harm in that.

Thus the young lady pleaded, and thus the young man reasoned. He had never tasted wine; but when once the cup had passed his lips, a thirst was created which clamored for indulgence. That first glass, pressed to his lips by a young and thoughtless lady, and accepted through fear of appearing singular, was the beginning of a downward course. His studious habits were abandoned. He sought the company of revellers; rapidly, madly, he rushed to ruin, and in a few short months was laid in a drunkard's grave.

So young, so gifted! Another victim laid on the altar of intemperance. By his fall many fond hopes were blighted and hearts almost crushed.

His companions in college laid to heart the lessons taught by his fearful fall. Standing around his grave, they made a solemn pledge never to taste the deadly poison, never to deal in it, never to offer it to others, or in any way to encourage its use.

Some of this number still live, zealous advocates of the cause of temperance.

And the young lady through whose enticing words the first glass passed his lips, can she meet at the judgment the soul of her victim? She knew not what she did, or hand and tongue would have palsied as she held before him the sparkling cup; but it is never safe to trifle with a deadly poison.

Young lady, as you value the souls of those whom you may influence, shun the social glass. Let no one be influenced by your example to take the first step in the downward way.

General News.

CANADIAN.

The Toronto Board of Examiners have completed the examinations for masters and mates. They granted 123 certificates, 99 for masters and 24 for mates.

On the 13th inst. a brutal murder took place at Calgary; Jesse Williams killed Jas. Adams with a razor.

There is said to be a gang of boys in St. Thomas who, inspired by trashy literature, are making numerous petty depredations.

John Bogan almost severed three of his toes with an axe while chopping in the woods near Cobourg.

Judgment has been given by Justice Ferguson in the celebrated church case of Langtry and Dumoulin in favor of plaintiffs. Rectors outside of St. James' Cathedral rector are, therefore, entitled to a share in the endowment funds of St. James.

A fire occurred in the pattern shop of the G. T. R. at Point St. Charles, Que., which gutted the building completely. The reading-room library belonging to the workmen was also consumed with contents. Loss about \$2,000.

An English company has been formed for the purpose of developing the Pocock coal mine, in the Souris district.

George Harrison, an engineer, was found drowned in his employer's dock in Dartmouth, N.S., on the 24th. Two soldiers of the Royal Artillery were also drowned at Halifax by the upsetting of a boat.

The New Brunswick legislature was opened at 3 o'clock Thursday by His Honor Hon. Duncan Wilmot, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province.

The barque "Ada Barton," from St. John for Glasgow, has been lost at sea with all hands.

A frame house in Napanee, owned and occupied by George McGuinness, was destroyed by fire Saturday night. None of the contents were saved. Loss about \$800; insured for \$350.

A writ has been served upon Sir Charles Tupper for \$5,200 for sitting in Parliament and holding the position of High Commissioner at the same time. The writ was taken out by a man named Campbell, a retired grocer.

A sad story of the fatal results of over-indulgence in ardent spirits comes from South March, near Ottawa. On Saturday evening last Susan Morgan, wife of Mr. George Morgan, went to the "Corners," where she partook too freely of spirituous liquors. Starting for home she seems to have lost her way on the road, and was frozen dead not far from her residence.

Mr. Burns and an adopted daughter were burned to death at Bridgewater, N. B., on the 22nd, being unable to escape from a burning building.

At Hamilton some corporation laborers were cutting down an embankment on Main street west when a land slide occurred, and Wm. McCallum was crushed against a waggon and died before he could be dug out. A fellow-labourer named Tompkins was badly bruised at the same time by earth falling on him.

A dreadful accident is reported from the village of Bridgewater, N. B., which is situated between Centreville and the boundary. Mr. Burns' house and all the contents were burned. Mrs. Burns and her daughter made their escape from the burning building by leaping from the upper window. Mr. Burns and an adopted daughter about 14 years old were unable to escape and were burned to death.

Miners in the Springhill colliery, N. S., are on strike owing to the refusal of the company to comply with the demand made for an increase of wages by the miners on behalf of the "outside" men, from \$1.10 to \$1.25, and a few men underground who were working in difficult places and unable to raise the usual quantity from 47 cents to 60 cents per box. The last named men, it was said, could only earn from 75 to 85 cents per day.

Nearly all the south side of Queen Square, Charlottetown, P. E. I., has been destroyed by fire. In the centre of the square stood the Custom House and Post Office. Shingles were substituted for slate on the roof of the building some time ago. It was destroyed. The total loss is estimated at \$250,000. Insurance, \$89,000.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held recently at Brandon under the auspices of the Farmer's Union. After the report of the delegate to Ottawa had been received, resolutions were passed endorsing the previous declaration of rights, demanding the extension of the boundaries to Hudson Bay, and a redistribution of seats in the Local Legislature. Several delegates were appointed to attend the Winnipeg convention on March 5. The convention promises to be a great and earnest gathering.

UNITED STATES.

Reports continue to come in of the terrible effects of last week's storm. The damage done in some places was very great.

A quack who prescribed a medicine which killed his patient was been lynched by indignant citizens in Colorado.

At Selma, Ala., Leonard Jefferson, aged 20, in a quarrel killed Henry Smith, aged 13. The difficulty grew out of the possession of a dime with a hole in it.

The cyclone killed fifty persons in North Carolina and wounded many more. Nine persons lost their lives in Putnam County, Ga., and the stock on many farms perished.

George H. Tryer, one of Colorado's best known mining men, died at Denver Sunday evening from an overdose of morphine, administered by his own hand.

A hundred pounds of dynamite exploded recently seven miles north of Omaha. Thos. Burns was torn into fragments, and shreds of his flesh scattered several hundred yards. Great gaps were made in the earth. A number of buildings in the neighborhood were damaged. The shock was distinctly felt all over the city.

The steamer Saucelito was burned last week at San Quentin, Cal. An employee who was in a helpless state of intoxication is supposed to have been cremated. Loss \$150,000.