

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 VI.

There was no impediment, now, in the way of James keeping company with Mary Arlington, who remained with her mother. Mr. and Mrs. Arlington always welcomed him to their house with the utmost cordiality, and Mary never looked coldly upon him.

Time wore on. Months flowed into months, and still the reformed man went daily to work, and came back to his family at evening, cheerful and contented, bringing light into his dwelling whenever he appeared. Association with those who had the good cause deeply at heart, removed him from all temptation. There was no one to put a block of stumbling in his way—no one to draw him aside by any allurements. And at home, all was so happy, that the bare thought of any act of his by which sorrow and distress should again cross his threshold, made him shudder.

But, notwithstanding the blessings which this re-united family enjoyed and thankfully acknowledged, there still existed a cause of grief. John, the oldest son, had, like his father, fallen a victim to the great Moloch—strong drink; and after leading, for some years, a dissolute life, had gone off, and they had not heard from him for a long time. The father believed him dead, but the mother clung to the hope that he was yet alive. John was in his twenty-third year when he went away, and he had been gone over two years.

"If we could only hear something of John," Mrs. Arlington said so often in the hearing of James Latimer, who was a constant visitor of the house, that the young man determined to make such efforts as were in his power to find the absent one. He, accordingly, obtained the names of leading and active temperance men in all the principal cities, and wrote, earnestly desiring them to ascertain, if possible, whether the person he described was in their neighborhood. To these communications, he received many answers, but none of them satisfactory. He did not mention to any one what he was doing, not even to Mary. To raise hopes, that might be all in vain, he knew would be worse than to leave all as it was. But he did not relax his efforts. To more distant cities he sent off his letters of inquiry, and patiently waited for answers. Many replies were received, but none brought the desired intelligence.

This went on, until James attained his twenty-first year, having served his master faithfully, and obtained, in the short time he had to learn his trade, a very fair skill as a workman. Mr. Seymour retained him as a journeyman at good wages.

Soon after this, Latimer applied, formally, to Mr. Arlington, still a sober man and now an active promoter of the temperance cause, for the hand of his daughter.

"If her heart is with you, my young friend," replied the father, "you have my fullest sanction. I owe you almost every thing, and make this return with gladness. I need not tell you how good a girl Mary is. You know all her excellencies. May heaven smile upon your love!"

There was now a smooth sea for the bark of their love to sail upon, and favoring airs were ready to waft it over the glassy waters. But Latimer had resolved not to ask for the consummation of their love in marriage, until all hope of finding and reclaiming the lost brother was at an end. Nearly a year went by after he had attained his majority, and still no word had come from the wandering member of the re-united family,

and James was about adopting the opinion of Mr. Arlington that he was dead, when a letter reached him from a temperance lecturer in Pittsburg, to whom he had written. It was as follows:—

"My Dear Sir: I have learned that a person by the name of Arlington, who answers, in most respects, your description, spent the last winter and spring in this place, working in a coach factory. But he indulged in drinking so freely, that he was discharged a month or two ago, and left here in a flat boat for some place down the river. No doubt he is in some of the towns between this and the mouth of the Ohio.

Respectfully yours' _____"

With this letter Latimer went over to see the uncle of Mary, and to him declared his determination to go out West and search out and seek to reclaim the young man.

"I have two hundred dollars laid by," he said, "and that will bear my expenses."

A proposition that evinced such generous and noble self-devotion, touched the heart of Mr. Arlington, and he instantly replied—

"If you are ready to give your time, James, I am ready to bear every dollar of the expense. Let what you have lain by remain untouched. Providence has blessed my industry with a good return, and if I can use any part of what he has given me in saving a soul for his kingdom, it is my duty to do so. Have you mentioned this to my brother?"

"No. I wish to create no false hopes."

"Nor to Mary?"

"No. When I bring home the reclaimed son and brother, it will be time enough."

"What excuse will you make for going away?"

"I have not settled that; it is the smallest thing to be considered now. Even if my excuse is not at first deemed a good one, it will be differently estimated in the end."

"True."

"I must start at a very early day. No time is to be lost. In the downward course of a drunkard, there is no telling how soon the end may come."

"Go, noble-hearted young man!" replied Mr. Arlington with warmth, "and He who has filled your heart with so generous an enthusiasm in a good cause, will give your efforts, I feel an assurance in my heart, the most perfect success."

In a week James Latimer started for Philadelphia, whence he intended proceeding direct to Pittsburg. He failed in satisfying any one of his friends in Newark in regard to the journey he was about taking. Mr. Seymour looked very grave about it; Mr. Arlington said nothing, but was sober; and Mary parted from him with a sad, tearful, and half-rebuking face. All this was painful to James, but he was self-sustained in a good purpose, and left, expressing a hope to be with them all again in a very short time.

In Pittsburg, Latimer found the shop at which the brother of Mary had worked, and from inquiries among the journeymen who had been most familiar with him, fully satisfied himself in regard to his identity. He also learned, that when the young man left he had declared his intention of going to Cincinnati.

On the day following his arrival at Pittsburg, James left in a down-river boat, and at every town where they stopped, improved the short period the boat remained at the landing, in making