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TEMPERANCE.

JONAS HUMPHREY'S STORE.

BY SARAH F. BRIGHAM.

One of the largest stores in Battle Brook bore a sign, in great, dazzling gilt letters, "Jonas Humphrey, Wines and Liquors." This merchant had long pursued a prosperous business, and was rich in lands and bank and railroad stock, while many of his best customers had become stricken in poverty, because they had yielded their higher feelings, inch by inch, to their appetite for strong drink.

One frosty morning, a pale, thin-clad child entered the store, and timidly approached Mr. Humphrey.

"Please, sir, don't sell father any more liquor. It is ruining him."

The merchant viewed her frowningly.

"Please sir, don't sell father any more liquor," she piteously repeated.

"Alice Lynde, it is my business to sell my wines and liquors. I get my living by it. If your father can't control his appetite, I am not to blame. That is his lookout not mine."

"But sir, all his money goes for rum, and mother is sick, and we are getting very poor. Please don't sell father any more liquor. Don't!—with tearful eyes."

"If your father doesn't get it here he will somewhere else; and if I heeded the whimpering of every woman and child, I should soon have to shut up my store. Business is business," he said in a hard tone.

Alice clasped her hands in agony, and returned to her sick mother and wretched home.

Mr. Humphrey continued to sell wine, brandy, etc., the rest of the day. Several retail merchants made heavy purchases, and money flowed in upon him.

Evening came. The sun was sinking in the west, and its last faint streaks were tinging the tree tops. Mr. Humphrey owned a row of tenement houses on a street near the railroad, and was walking by them closely inspecting them. The smoke of an incoming train was curling up above the pines a half a mile distant, and a long prolonged whistle was heard. Suddenly the voice of a child broke the clear still air.

"Father, wake up! You are on the railroad track. The cars are coming. You'll be run over. Get up! Get up!"

Mr. Humphrey's eyes followed the sound of this voice. About forty rods from him he saw George Lynde, in a drunken sleep, lying across the railroad track, and his daughter Alice vainly attempting to awaken him.

The train came furiously on, whistling and belching smoke.

"Help! help! help!" cried Alice. "Father's on the track. He'll be killed. The cars are coming;" and she seized hold of him, and endeavored with all her strength to pull him away.

Her efforts availed nothing. The train slackened its speed, as it approached the station, but still rolled heavily on in its mighty power. There was but an instant for the inebriate between life and death.

"Help! help! father's on the track!" shrieked Alice.

The blood seemed to curdle in her veins. Objects grew dark and indistinct before her. Somebody ran towards them. With a quick, powerful grasp a man seized Mr. Lynde, and dragged him from off the rails, and the train went whizzing by.

"What's the matter? hic-hic—" inquired Mr. Lynde slowly opening his eyes.

"Mr. Humphrey has saved you from being killed by the cars," replied Alice with a ghastly face and chattering teeth.

"Saved me?—hic—saved me?—hic—me? How came the cars to be running through the streets?—hic—"

"I guess-hic—they've got a sot for an engineer. The corporation should hire men who don't drink. Ha, ha, hic-hic. The men who don't go near Humphrey's dram-shop-hic—are the men to be trusted—hic—"

"You had better go home with your daughter," said Mr. Humphrey commandingly.

"Ah, Jonas Humphrey, you saved me; but what am I good for?—hic— You've ruined me first, soul and body. Curse you forever." I was a good man until I saw you.

Mr. Lynde staggered by Alice's side till they reached home, and then threw himself on the bed and again fell into a deep sleep.

Jonas Humphrey also went home but not to sleep. He was unusually weary, and his head ached, and the pale, sorrowing face of Alice Lynde came up before him, and her pleading words, "Please sir, don't sell father any more liquor. It is ruining him."

George Lynde, too had said, "I was a good man till I saw you."

Mr. Humphrey rose the next morning, but the pain in his head had increased, and he was hot and feverish. Very rapidly he grew worse. A raging dangerous fever had seized him for its victim and he was expected to die. Eternity was before him. Oh, what a dark record he beheld! How many souls he had made desolate.

Mr. Humphrey did not die. In this terrible hour of remorse and guilt he made a solemn vow before God, "That should his life be spared, he would devote all his energies and means to high and holy purposes."

Very slowly he recovered, and faithfully he kept his vow. The sign in dazzling gilt letters—"Wines, Liquors, etc., which had so long been a snare to the weak and erring, was taken down, and a hardware store took its place. The liquor dealer had become a strong Christian man. To the unfortunate men whom his former business had helped to degrade and impoverish, he extended sympathy, encouragement, and aid.

HOW TO EXERCISE.

The Duke of Wellington said that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playgrounds of England. It was here that the thews and sinews were developed by means of Athletic sports, such as football and cricket, that made the English army invincible. Exercise, to be in the highest degree beneficial, should not be performed mechanically as a necessary duty. It should partake as much as possible of the nature of sport. The more merriment combined with it the better. "Laugh and grow fat" is an aphorism which expresses a physiological truth. Laughing sociabilities would hardly take the place of gymnasia; but if we could have a gymnasium whose exercise provoked laughter, it would be a great improvement upon those which now exist. Walking, when done rapidly, is excellent exercise; but extremely dull unless there be a companionship and an object. Combine the study of botany or geology, and have a jolly companion and a brisk walk, repeated every day, answers every purpose. Boating, fencing and many other kinds of exercise might be mentioned, but our limits will allow us only to speak of equestrian exercise. Confucius says the gods do not count, in determining the length of a person's life the days spent in the chase. Horseback-riding has this very decided advantage, that it affords a good deal of very enjoyable exercise with very little effort. Many people are unable, for want of strength, to obtain by walking or in the gymnasium the exercise which they require. This kind of exercise is peculiarly adapted to people who are inclined to pulmonary weakness. The erect position, the exhilaration of spirits, the deep inspirations which attend it, make this one of the most useful, while it certainly is one of the most enjoyable of exercises.—N. Y. Independent.

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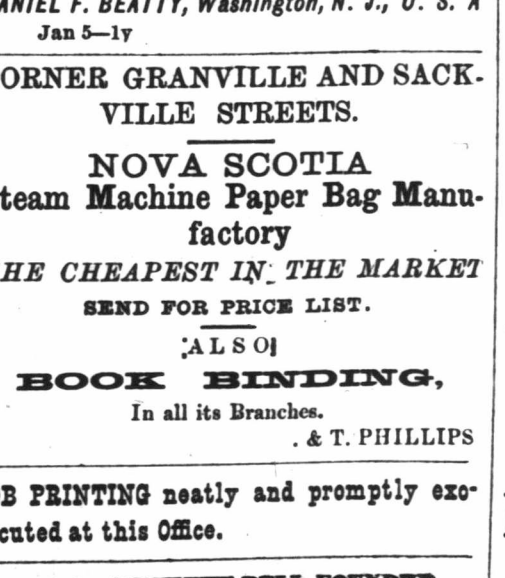
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