

with his son how I estimate this act of kindness to a fallen man." "Mr. Burley," said I, "if you will only act as you now talk, the past will be forgotten." "Then," said he, "by the blessing of God, it shall be forgotten." From that time to the present he has conducted himself in the most exemplary manner. He has constantly abstained from all strong drinks. He gave Mr. Blaney entire satisfaction in the preparation of his son for college; and has now about twenty scholars, to whom he is entirely devoted. He is not in the poor house, except by his own wish. His apartments indeed are entirely distinct, and altogether neat and comfortable. We assent to his continuance, as he has expressed an opinion, that although he does not think he should fall into temptation, he deems himself safer there for a time; and his services, in various ways, meet the expenses of his board and lodging. The compensation paid him for tuition, with the exception of his ordinary expenses, he scrupulously devotes to the payment of his debts. He often speaks of you with great affection: and I shall be happy to call for you in the morning, and you will have an opportunity of judging for yourself."

Mr. Atherton expressed again the delight he received from this account of Burley's reformation, and soon after Mr. Soder had taken his leave, he retired for the night.

Agreeably to his promise, Mr. Soder called at an early hour upon the following morning, and proceeded with Mr. Atherton to the poor house.

"It is likely, sir," said Mr. Soder, as they drew near, "that Mr. Burley would be pleased to see you alone; and I will show you into the overseers' room, and let him know of your arrival."

Mr. Atherton thanked him for his kindness, and was shown into the very parlour in which he had been received by Burley himself eight years before.

In a short time, Burley entered the apartment. The two friends shook hands, and sat down by the side of each other, but neither could utter a syllable. The tear was in Atherton's eye, but his features were lighted up by a smile of cordial satisfaction. He was evidently surprised and gratified by the appearance of his old friend. He was thin and pale, neatly dressed in a coarse suit of grey, and nothing remained to identify the miserable being whom Mr. Atherton had left five years before, utterly degraded and forlorn.

Burley bit his lip, and struggled hard to suppress his emotion. He was the first to break silence.

"This is very kind in you," said he, "and I can truly say I have more joy to see you here, under these circumstances, than I had to see you, in the same place, eight years ago. I was then the master of this house, by the blessing of God I trust I am now master of myself."

"You are a rich man," said Mr. Atherton, grasping him by the hand; "for you have gotten wisdom which is better than rubies."

Mr. Atherton urged his old friend to spend the residue of his days in the South, to make his house his future home; and to occupy his time, in the instruction of youth, as the preceptor of an academy.

The good people of the village were extremely unwilling to part with a man who bid fair to be as useful in the last of his days, as he had been worse than useless in the beginning. It was finally settled, however, that he should accept the proposal of his friend, giving the parents of his present pupils notice of his intention.

The residue of this narrative may be briefly recited. Mr. Burley's career, during the remaining six months, was perfectly consistent; and he gave entire satisfaction to his friends, who continued to increase in numbers till the period of his departure.

It is now nine years since he became an inmate in the family of Mr. Atherton. The case of Burley is one of the most impressive examples of the effects of total abstinence in

breaking that fatal spell, which can bend down the master-spirits of the age in the very dust of the earth. No graduated process—nothing but total abandonment could have wrought this signal reformation.

No more forcible evidence can be supplied of the confidence reposed in Mr. Burley, by the friends of temperance, than the fact, that two years ago he was requested to deliver an address before the temperance society, in the town in which he resides. He accepted the invitation; and few who listened to his remarks will ever forget them. He said that he was entirely willing to make a sacrifice of his own feelings for the sake of his fellow-men. He proceeded, though he was frequently interrupted by his own emotion, to give the history of his own fall and restoration. There was not a dry eye in the assembly.

Mr. Burley is still living, a consistent total abstainer. He has lived down an evil name; and however unworthy and degraded he may have been, he is now right opposite!

TEETOTALISM AND ENGLISH HISTORY.

BY CLARA L. BALFOUR.

My Dear Young Readers,—I mentioned to you in the last number of the series, the fact, that though all history, when carefully and thoughtfully read, is instructive, yet the history of our own country is of the highest importance to us. If we have not books or time to read the accounts of ancient days, yet few I hope are so situated that they cannot obtain a history of England. Most Sunday schools have a lending library, and I trust all Juvenile Abstainers, who have not the books they require at home, are so fond of reading, and so well behaved, that they have the privilege of borrowing from the lending library of their school, and in this way are acquainted with a general outline of English history.

Most of you are aware that the ancient Britons, when they were first conquered by the Romans, were a hardy, healthy race.

Britain was, after the time of the Romans, conquered by the Saxons, and then by the Danes, after which the Saxon power was again established. Both the Saxons and the Danes were addicted to the love of strong drink, and many of our most common drinking customs came down to us from these very ancient and ignorant times.

There was a foolish notion then prevailing, that by wishing a person good health over a bowl of strong drink, all bad effects would be prevented. This silly custom was begun in the Saxon times, and was very soon general all over England. In the Isle of Wight, they have in one place, a custom of drinking health to the town on a particular day, and the rude kind of rhyme in which they do this is perhaps as old as the custom. They sing or chant over a bowl of ale these lines:—

"Wassail, wassail to our town,
The ale is white and the ale is brown,
The bowl is made of the oaken tree,
And so is the ale, of good barley."

I remember when a child having heard this silly chaunt; and to all the poorer inhabitants of the place it was annually a source of much wickedness and folly. If any one asked why it was kept up, the answer was, "Oh! it is the custom," and so without enquiring whether its effects were good or bad, from year to year for many centuries, this idle and injurious custom continued. Ought we not to be thankful that wise and good men have at last arisen and taught us not to follow the path of evil doers, but to examine our customs and be wise.

The word "Wassail," or "Wa'as Hail," was a common term of civility, as the word "hail" implies; and when it is to be uttered over strong drink, the answer to it in those days was "Drink Hail!" neither of which terms were any