

ing voice, he replied—"I will do it my son." And thus they pledged themselves to *Total Abstinence* there.

The lake, the trees, and the pure blue sky, being their only witnesses, save only that Holy Being who is everywhere. As they retraced their steps, his father, taking the little watch from his pocket, gave it to Dennie, and said, "My son, you have long wished that I would give you this watch. It is now yours as long as you keep your promise. Should that ever be broken, I shall expect you to return it to me;—till then, let it be a token to you of this promise we have now made."

Years have passed; and the same little Dennie is now a distinguished clergyman in one of the most populous Western cities. Four bright little boys call him father. The same little gold watch decorates his parlor wall, and often does he point to it and tell of his danger and his escape from the whirlpool of *INTEMPERANCE*.

#### A SKETCH.

"**A**RE you crying because father does not come?" said Ella. Then twining her arms around her mother's neck, she whispered, "Do not cry, I will stay with you till father comes."

"My gentle child, thou art a blessing to me," said her mother, as she kissed her cheek, "but you must not sit up later; go to bed now; not forgetting to pray for thy father and thy almost desolate mother." Ella knelt beside her lowly couch and lifted her heart in prayer to God; then laying her head upon her pillow she slept the sweet sleep of innocence, while angels hovered near, gently whispering of a happy home in Heaven.

Charles Orme, the father of Ella, was a physician, once eminent for

his skill in the practice of medicine, and beloved by all who knew him, for his many virtues. He had married an amiable, pious woman, whose cheerful smile ever welcomed him, making his home to him the dearest spot on earth. But in an evil hour, at the wedding of a friend, he yielded to temptation, and drank deeply from the sparkling wine-cup. From that day he took his daily glass; and his wife, who saw the danger, strove with all the earnestness and gentle influence of woman's love, to win him from the inebriating bowl. At length, he became intoxicated daily; neglecting his professional duties, and often speaking harshly to his wife; which she bore meekly, never answering unkindly but beseeching him if he loved her and his children, to throw off the chains that bound him.

Ella awoke in the morning with a slight fever, for which her father prescribed, then paid his usual visit to the tavern where he spent the day, and returned home too much intoxicated to notice the symptoms of a malignant fever. She became dangerously ill; and the mother's heart fainted as she gazed upon her child and saw that she must die: that her lovely flower would soon be torn from her embrace, and consigned to its last resting-place, the dark, lone grave. Fervently she ejaculated, "Father in Heaven, if this beloved child is to be taken from me, grant I beseech thee, that the bright gem now fluttering to be freed from its clay casket, may be washed in the atoning blood of thy Son, and transplanted to bloom afresh in the 'garden of the Lord.' Precious Saviour, take her to thyself, and may I bow submissively to the afflicting dispensation."

On the eighth day of her illness, her father came home comparative-