



# THE CAMP FIRE.

A Monthly Record and Advocate of the Temperance Reform.

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25 CENTS PER YEAR

**Every one who receives this paper is respectfully requested to read every part of it carefully. It is a journal that no Canadian temperance worker can afford to be without. The subscription price is almost insignificant. In the impending campaign for better legislation in Ontario it will be of intense interest and great value.**

## DRUNKENNESS IN LONDON.

The sixty-sixth Annual Report of the London, (Eng.) City Mission is in itself a tremendous argument in favor of temperance and prohibition. Among the strong statements contained in the forcible document are the following:—

“Drunkenness is the chief evil which stands in the way of moral and religious progress. Were this hydra-headed monster slain, the misery and sorrow experienced by the poor and industrial classes would, to a large extent, disappear. It is the conviction of not a few of those who are in a position to judge, that nine-tenths of the poverty, crime and vice are traceable to this one besetting sin. Many thousands of men and women are daily sacrificing character, home comforts, health, and present and eternal happiness through yielding to a craving desire for intoxicating liquors.

Whatever the improvement of the people may be in other respects, it would seem indubitable that their drinking habits are growing. The Churches supported by Christian and Temperance Societies, have made strenuous efforts to stem the advancing tide, and with considerable success. Many thousands of drunkards are yearly reclaimed, and tens of thousands of the young men are protected from danger by joining Bands of Hope; yet the evil grows notwithstanding.

The manufacture of drunkards proceeds more rapidly than their reclamation, and according to the report of the Commissioner of Police, the number of persons apprehended for drunkenness and for drunken and disorderly conduct during 1899, in the streets of London, was no less than 56,066, or 8,469 per 1,000 of the population—a greater proportion than have been arrested since the year 1853.

The Committee regret to add that, as has been the case during the past few years, the missionaries in many districts are unanimous in their testimony that this increase is more observable amongst women than amongst men, and that in the weaker sex the effect of indulgence is far more serious in its consequences. A missionary writes: ‘In thirty minutes I saw seventy-four persons enter a public-house in my district. Of these, sixty-five were women, most of whom had children with them.’”

## THE FIGHT IN FRANCE.

The fight against drunkenness in France is beset with difficulties. We draw attention to two of them, as it is not probably understood by our readers under what conditions the temperance worker finds himself.

First, then, there is practically free trade in strong drink in France. Since the year 1881, all restriction concerning

the trade in alcoholic drink has been removed, and now there is no more difficulty in retailing all kinds of intoxicants than there is in selling milk or lemonade, so that we find drink-shops of all kinds increasing in number with fearful rapidity.

Not only do the number of wineshops, restaurants and cabarets of all descriptions abound, but the green-grocer, the coal-seller, and the chemist, even, retail ardent spirits and made-up wines of various kinds; all poisons under disguised names. For women who do not care to be seen entering a wine-shop or cafe, the milk and butter sellers obligingly provide a little ‘bar,’ where, behind a protecting screen, the housewife or servant can discreetly take her ‘petit verre’ without attracting attention!

Secondly, private distilling is allowed, under certain conditions. That is, every one who owns any land can distil, for personal use, thirty litres (quarts) of alcohol annually, from wine and cider, or from plums, cherries, etc. This is called the privilege of ‘bouilleurs de cru.’ Needless to say, that the thirty quarts ‘for personal use’ are largely exceeded, and thus there is a great quantity of alcohol annually distilled, paying no duty, and ignored by the customs.

To effect a reform in the spread of drunkenness, therefore, this privilege must be abolished. But . . . those holding the privilege, and they count by hundreds of thousands, are electors! and the hundreds of thousands who are manufacturing and retailing alcohol are also electors! And seeing that there is now in France a drinking place for every twenty electors it is easy to see that the prospects of temperance work are not cheering.

The following table showing the amount of alcohol consumed in the principal countries of Europe, America, and in Canada, has been compiled by calculating the quantity of alcohol contained in wine, beer, cider, and in the various distilled drinks used, and adding these together. It is evident that the result thus obtained is only approximate.

	Litres per head at 100
1. France . . . . .	14.
2. Belgium . . . . .	10.05
3. Germany . . . . .	10.05
4. Great Britain . . . . .	9.25
5. Denmark . . . . .	8.25
6. Switzerland . . . . .	7.05
7. Italy . . . . .	6.60
8. Holland . . . . .	6.25
9. United States . . . . .	6.10
10. Russia . . . . .	6.
11. Sweden . . . . .	4.50
12. Norway . . . . .	3.
13. Canada . . . . .	2.

—MCALL MISSIONS QUARTERLY.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### NOTES OF NEWS CONCERNING OUR CAUSE.

#### An Inebriate Home.

General Booth of the Salvation Army has purchased an extensive building in Essex County, Eng., in which inebriates are to be cared for and medically treated under the British Inebriates' Act. He expects to have this great undertaking in operation in a very short time.

#### Well Done, Baptists!

At a recent meeting of the British Baptist's Total Abstinence Society, a report was submitted showing that the membership now includes 1,853 Baptist clergymen, and that of the theological students in the nine Baptist Colleges, numbering 201, all are reported as being total abstainers.

#### Always Some Poison.

The British Commission appointed to inquire into the use of arsenic in brewing, reported that with the use of certain materials now employed in the brewing business, the presence of some arsenic is unavoidable. A recommendation will probably be made that a standard test be established, defining the quantity of arsenic which is to be recorded as unlawful.

#### Murdered Through Drink.

Evidence brought out at a coroner's inquest at Albany, N.Y., goes to show that the soldiers employed in the maintaining of order during the late street car strikes in that city, were at times in a disgraceful condition of intoxication, and that the death of the citizen who was shot by soldiers resulted from this shameful condition of the men who committed the murder.

#### Successful Enforcement.

Reports from Portland, Me., continue to give evidence of the effectiveness of law enforcement under Sheriff Pearson's administration. The law-breakers who strive to carry on the liquor selling business are driven to strong and sometimes disgusting methods of concealing their stocks. In one case the liquor was kept in bottles in a cellar so disgustingly dirty that an attempt to search it made the officials deathly sick.

#### Drinking Did it

Dr. J. B. Skeen, Medical Superintendent of the Kirkland Asylum of the Lunark and Govan Lunacy District, says in his recent annual report that of recent admissions to the asylum, alcoholism accounts for twenty out of seventy-seven cases in which the cause was ascertained. Of course, it must be remembered that these figures do not include cases of insanity caused by troubles that are directly attributable to strong drink. They merely refer to cases in which drinking was the direct cause of the insanity.

#### Sound Doctrine.

The Annual Convention of the Baptist body in the Maritime Provinces, held at Moncton in August, adopted a very strong report on the temperance question. The principal recommendations approved were for amendment of the

Canada Temperance Act, the pledging of voters to withhold votes from men who would not support temperance legislation, the taking by temperance men of a more active part in political affairs and an extension of the work of education and agitation of pastors and laymen.

#### No More Bar Maids.

The Bengal Government has issued orders making it a condition in regard to all licenses for hotels and drinking saloons that no women shall be employed in connection with the bars in any capacity. Some discretion is to be left to the Commissioner of Police with regard to bar maids that have been brought out from England to act in that capacity, and some of them may be allowed to retain their position till the time of their agreement has expired. The employment of all other bar maids is to end immediately.

#### A Good Move.

In Great Britain much good seems to have resulted from the establishment by County Councils of reformatories for habitual drunkards under the Inebriates' Act. One of the difficulties met with in the management of these institutions is that a small percentage of the patients are so exceedingly difficult of management that their conduct interferes with the discipline of the homes. The London County Council has memorialized the Government to establish State Reformatories for these cases, and the Home Secretary has stated that accommodation for them will shortly be ready.

#### Wonderful Progress.

We have noticed already the splendid record made last year by the Independent Order of Rechabites. The following table, compiled by the High Secretary, shows the growth of this wonderfully successful temperance society, taking the statistics of membership at intervals of ten years for the last thirty years.

Year	Adults	Juveniles	Totals
1871	17,715	5,504	23,219
1881	35,500	18,724	54,224
1891	97,563	58,470	146,033
1901	168,780	190,257	269,037

#### Methodists and Temperance.

A discussion upon temperance was probably the most stirring debate that took place during the great Methodist Ecumenical Conference in City Road Chapel, London, Eng., last week. One of the liveliest speeches was that of Rev. Dr. A. B. Leonard, of New York, whose stirring remarks made strikingly manifest the difference between the position of the Methodist churches of North America and those of Great Britain.

Dr. Leonard said that the church which he represented laid it down that the complete local prohibition of strong drink was the first duty of civil government. He was a little surprised that their Wesleyan friends on this side of the water were debating the question as to whether a liquor dealer could hold office in the church. The mere raising of such a question as that in America would be regarded as a very strange procedure. They had gone far beyond that. They struck at the very root of the whole matter, and said that no man should be a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church who drank liquor or manufactured or sold it. The drink habit and the drink traffic were Siamese twins, and could not be separated without the destruction of both. To effectually close the saloon in America on Sundays they must abolish it altogether. The saloon in his country was the hot-bed of political corruption, and the politician avoided the temperance crusade.

## The Camp Fire.

A. MONTHLY JOURNAL  
OF TEMPERANCE PROGRESS.

SPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF  
THE PROHIBITION CAUSE.

Edited by F. S. SPENCE

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Subscription, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A Year

NOTE.—It is proposed to make this the cheapest Temperance paper in the world, taking into consideration its size, the matter it contains and the price at which it is published.

Every friend of temperance is earnestly requested to assist in this effort by subscribing and by sending in facts or arguments that might be of interest or use to our workers.

The editor will be thankful for correspondence upon any topic connected with the temperance reform. Our limited space will compel condensation. No letter for publication should contain more than two hundred words—if shorter, still better.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1901

### PUNISHMENT OF PERJURY.

The Prince Edward Island Advocate states that the Government of the Province intends to take vigorous action to secure the punishment of parties found guilty of perjury in connection with liquor cases.

This will be a step in the right direction. It is frequently stated that prohibitory laws are productive of perjury. No doubt there has been a good deal of false swearing by persons charged with offences against liquor laws, and some people have short sightedly attributed this crime to the law which it is used to defeat.

The real difficulty has been the laxness of the officials who have made little effort to secure the punishment of persons who were manifestly guilty of perjury in liquor cases. Men who are vile enough to swear falsely are often deterred from this wickedness by dread of the law.

There will be much perjury in connection with liquor cases if persons charged and witnesses heard are led to believe that they will not be punished for perjury committed in defence of violation of the liquor law, but will be severely dealt with if guilty of perjury in any other connection.

Encouragement to perjury is, however, not given by the liquor law, but the remissness of officials who ought in every case to do their utmost to suppress an evil so inherently great and so subversive of law and order in the community.

The Guardian commends the proposal of the Government to insist upon enforcement of the law against perjury, quoting the section of the criminal code which the Government proposes to vigorously enforce, and which is as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to fourteen years imprisonment who commits perjury or subordination of perjury.

### A STIRRING DEBATE.

At the recent meeting of the Provincial Synod of the Church of England, in Montreal, a strong attack on prohibition was made by Judge McDonald, of Brockville, who made himself famous as a member of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic, by his bitter opposition to prohibition and his unfair treatment of witnesses who favored prohibition.

The Judge refrained from quoting any of the strong evidence submitted to the Commission showing the good results that had followed the suppression of the liquor traffic. He claimed that such laws were a failure, and went on to declare that no free people would consent to a prohibitory law.

The learned judge's extravagant remarks were even surpassed by the anarchistic declamation of Rev. Mr. Lewis, who was quoted as stating that he was unalterably opposed to prohibition, and was prepared to take up arms against it if necessary. No man or government had a right to say to him what he should eat, or drink, and the taking away of natural rights was the enslavement of men, and would leave life of no value and prevent the growth of strength of character.

The Rev. Mr. Lewis and some other speakers strongly supported the Gethenburg system, which was vigorously denounced by Mr. C. N. Vroom, who presented a formidable array of facts and arguments that this method of dealing with the liquor traffic had proved a failure, and that under it drunkenness had increased.

The debate was concluded by the adoption of the following resolution moved by Mr. N. W. Hoyles:

"That this synod, deploring the widespread evils of intemperance and recognizing the obstacles that it presents to all Christian effort, impresses most earnestly upon the clergy and laity the importance of studying and promoting all means of temperance and reform, and both by example and influence doing everything in their power to influence public opinion in the matter, and more especially urges the formation in every parish of this ecclesiastical province of branches of the Church of England Temperance Society, and also bringing pressure to bear upon the proper authorities to bring about a reduction in the number of licenses, and a more strict enforcement of the present licensing laws. And that this house respectfully memorialize the house of bishops to issue a pastoral on this subject to the Canadian Church in this ecclesiastical province, or to embody it in the pastoral to be issued by them at the close of this synod; such pastoral to be read in every church in this province on some Sunday to be appointed by the bishops."

### A METHOD THAT FAILS.

Some weeks ago a woman appeared before Magistrate Denison in the Toronto Police Court, charged with drunkenness, and the statement was made that she had previously been there on a similar charge exactly one hundred times. One hundred times the magistrate had passed judgment upon her case, and it looked as if she was likely to continue coming before him as long as physical strength would permit her to do so. What an absurdity it is to attempt to remedy inebriety by the common police court method of imposing a fine or an alternative imprisonment.

The Fredericton Religious Intelligencer recently reported and commented upon even a worse case of the same kind in the following terms: "At the age of sixty years, after having served 317 sentences on fines of \$5 to \$10, miserable Mary O'Brien died in the Cook County Infirmary, in Chicago, a victim of alcoholism. Arrested and sentenced 317 times for drunkenness! Think of it! And this was the best that this foremost Christian government of the twentieth century of the Christian era could do for a poor, rum-cursed woman! Somebody will have an awful claim to settle when the Son of man takes the judgment throne."

### THE RUSSIAN LIQUOR MONOPOLY.

The London Echo has been publishing a series of articles on the progress of the temperance reform in different parts of the world, and in a recent issue has discussed the Russian Government Monopoly of the sale of intoxicants. The Echo does not think that the new method will be of much value in reducing the evils of intemperance. It shows that the sale of liquor has increased, and quotes the statement of Mr. Raffalovitch before the British Royal Statistical Society that in four years the liquor revenue was increased from £29,000,000 to £32,000,000. This seems to indicate increased drinking. The Cabinet Minister who controls the traffic has proposed that attractive women shall be employed instead of the present bartenders. Other important aspects of the system are set out in the following paragraphs of The Echo's article:

"While vaunting its determination to check the deadly national proclivity to vodka drinking, the administration actually sent out a variety of instruction to the local authorities to facilitate in every possible manner the supply of intoxicating drink to the people. Furthermore, officialism is carefully graded in the system, so as to give the managers every incentive to push the sale of intoxicants. Promotion is conditioned on success in sales.

"The new kabaks, owned by the Tsar himself, are of three classes. The salary of the chief of a first-class public house is £30 a year, with free residence, fuel and light. The salaries for second and third-class managers are £27 and £12 a year respectively, with the same extra advantages. Promotion from one class to another entirely depends upon activity in selling.

"The very small remuneration allotted to a third-class manager of course spurs him on to constant efforts. Official salaries are small in Russia, as they well may be in a land where commodities are excessively cheap.

"For several generations a kind of local option has prevailed in Russia, owing to the peculiar communal system, which is the only democratic factor in the country. Many village mirs or communes have long possessed the privilege of allowing or interdicting the opening of a drink-shop. These have recently, in many cases, petitioned the Government to refrain from establishing a vodka shop in their parishes. No such request has been heeded.

"Some communes have begged that the Government drinkshops compulsorily established should at least be closed on Sundays, and on the recognized Feast Days. The Rural Board of Gdov supported its petition by pleading the sufferings of the population through the late famine. But the Imperial Council turned a deaf ear to this very reasonable prayer also. Even a famine-stricken district appealed in vain for exemption in so partial a degree from a system which must sorely deplete the poor resources of the peasantry. The Administration has had its reward. M. Raffalovitch is altogether inaccurate in his estimate in the increase of the excise revenue, which, according to him, is twenty-five millions of roubles, while the Minister of Finance, M. Witte, in his report, declares it to be no less than ninety-five millions. Government publichouses are immensely lucrative, but they are certainly not conducive of reform."

### A TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.

#### TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The twenty-eight annual report of the London, (Eng.) Temperance Hospital has been issued. It covers the period of 1900, and states that during the year 1282 in-patients were admitted, being 72 fewer than in 1899. The cases cured were 851; relieved, 234; unrelieved, 80. The deaths were 117, of which no fewer than 32 occurred within twenty-four hours of admission. The death-rate is therefore 9.1 per cent., which may be regarded as moderate. Excluding morbid cases the death rate was 6.6 per cent.

From the opening of the Hospital in 1873, the in-patients have numbered 17,910, the cures have been 10,372, and the deaths 1290, giving the low death percentage of 7.2. The out-patients treated in 1900 were 8327, who made 21,015 visits. In 1899 the figures were 8328 and 22,043 respectively. The casualty patients in 1900 were 14,012, and their visits 32,361. In 1899 the figures were 12,545 and 30,656 respectively. Added together, the out-patients and casualty patients in 1900 numbered 22,339. These were new cases, the visits being 53,376.

It should be remembered that the London Temperance Hospital was founded in 1873 for the treatment of medical and surgical cases without the use of alcohol as ordinarily prescribed. It was provided, however, that the medical staff should be at liberty to administer alcohol when they deemed this to be needful. Every such case has been recorded. During the twenty-seven years of the Hospital's existence there have been forty-three such cases in a total of 17,910 in-patients.

Of the 17,910 in-patients admitted 7,496 have been abstainers, and 7662 non-abstainers—2752 being unclassified, and that number includes children. In all, 10,372 cures have been effected, 5422 patients have been relieved, 1290 died, and 826 were reported up to 1887 as "unrelieved."

Of the total of 1282 admitted in 1900, 170 were from country districts, one being from Scotland, one from Ireland, two from Wales, and two from the Channel Islands. There were 297 abstainers (132 males and 165 females). In 1900 seven patients were given alcohol, and only three recovered.

Subscriptions are asked on behalf of the hospital, and should be forwarded to the secretary, Mr. A. W. Bodger, London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, London, N.W.—League Journal.

### ORGANIZATION DOES IT.

A few years ago the liquor people were powerless to prevent the sweep of temperance legislation, and politicians promised much.

To-day the liquor people are not half as numerous, and have not more than half as many customers; yet they can block all legislation in the lobby.

Should their influence grow as it has during the past twenty years, they will soon be able to carry any legislation they want.

And the worst of it is that they will be able to do it with temperance votes, for temperance men of both parties are ready to vote for whatever the party dictates.

These facts show how temperance loses strength as its numbers increase, and liquor gains power whilst losing in numbers. A few people banded firmly together carry more weight than a mass of people who cannot be trained to follow one leader or object, and who in most cases decline to take their places in organized ranks.—Royal Templar.

### MUNICIPAL REDUCTION OF LICENSES.

There has been another instance of the reduction of licenses by the Corporation of Hull in England. In the old town, and just outside the dock area, licensed premises are "as thick as blackberries," and the more temperate part of the population has for years complained that the facilities for obtaining drink were too great. In the demolition of old premises now being dealt with by the Hull Corporation, there is included a considerable quantity of licensed property, and the licensing magistrates have taken advantage of the opportunity to impress upon the Corporation the desirability of extinguishing all licenses acquired for public improvement. Notwithstanding that they are considerable losers by the transaction, the corporation have, as far as possible, endeavored to meet their views. Nine out of sixteen licenses have been extinguished.

**IMPORTANT.**

TORONTO, 1901.

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You are respectfully requested to carefully examine **The Camp Fire**, a neat four-page monthly Prohibition paper, full of bright, pointed, convenient facts and arguments; containing also a valuable summary of the latest news about our cause. It is just what is needed to **inspire workers and make votes.**

We are embarking on a campaign for prohibition legislation in which the liquor traffic will do its utmost to block, delay, and if possible prevent our securing the enactment and enforcement of useful law. We have plenty of hard fighting ahead of us. We must keep posted and equipped, knowing all that is being done by our friends and foes, and sophistry and misrepresentation that will be advanced.

**The Camp Fire** will be one of the best aids you can have in the struggle. It will contain nothing but what you need. Every number ought to be preserved. You cannot afford to be without it, and the subscription price is only nominal, **Twenty-five cents per year.**

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A veritable outburst of true-spirited, natural eloquence, born of a devoted patriotism.—*Charlottetown Guardian.*

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The large assemblage was inspired, amused, thrilled and caused to weep almost in unison.—*Montreal Witness.*

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The embodiment of all that is best in his race—humorous, solemn, eloquent and pathetic.—*South Wales Argus.*

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A sparkling speaker, full of fire and dramatic action, and carries his audience along in a very tornado of eloquence.—*Templar Watchword.*

**Selections.**

**HOW MY BOY WENT DOWN.**

It was not on the field of battle,  
It was not with a ship at sea,  
But a fate far worse than either  
That stole him away from me.  
'Twas the death in the tempting dram  
That the reason and senses drown.  
He drank the luring poison—  
And thus my boy went down.

Down from the heights of manhood  
To the depths of disgrace and sin;  
Down to a worthless being,  
From the hope of what he might  
have been—

For the brand of a beast besotted  
He bartered his manhood's crown;  
Through the gate of sinful pleasure  
My poor, weak boy went down.

'Tis only the same old story  
That mothers so often tell,  
With accents of infinite sadness,  
Like the tones of a funeral bell;  
But I never thought once when I  
heard it  
I should learn all its meaning myself;  
I thought he'd be true to his mother,  
I thought he'd be true to himself.

But alas for my hopes of delusion!  
Alas for his youthful pride!  
Alas! who are safe when danger  
Is open on every side?  
Oh can nothing destroy this great evil?  
No bar in its pathway be thrown,  
To save from the terrible malestrom  
The thousands of boys going down?  
—The National Advocate.

**"THE END THEREOF IS DEATH."**

**A TRUE STORY.**

Far away in bonnie Scotland, nestling among the Grampian Hills, in the little village of L—, where the subject of this narrative first saw the light. Hugh McGorman was born of honest, God-fearing parents, whose hearts swelled with joy and pride as they saw their only son grow up a sturdy, healthy lad, blest with a larger portion of brains than the one or the other of them had ever possessed. They determined that, though they might be an ordinary common-place couple, their only son should be something extraordinary, that is, if they had anything to say in the matter. So, from the first birthday of the little lad, a certain sum of money was laid aside every year to accumulate, both principal and interest, until he was old enough to be sent to an English University, to prepare for whatever career he should set his heart upon following. He was to make a name for himself, but whatever lay in their power to assist him was to be done.

As I said before, Mr. and Mrs. McGorman were an honest and God-fearing couple, fairly well-to-do in this world's goods, and their son was brought up in all the strict religious observances of so many of that class of people in Scotland. He was duly taught to observe the Sabbath, to attend church, to read his Bible, and to obey its precepts and observances, and carry them out in his daily life. As soon as he was old enough he was sent to the village school, where he soon overtopped all the other boys, and was taught all that the dominie could teach him. Then he began to attend the Grammar School in the neighboring town, where all his mental powers were soon brought into fullest play by the keen and incessant competition of the other lads. However, Hugh's powers were of the highest order; examination after examination was gone in for and passed with flying colours. His mind, having been well grounded from the beginning, was stored with a rich treasury of knowledge; many friends were acquired by him, and taken backwards and forwards to his quiet village home, where his father and mother always made both him and them right welcome. The proverbial Scotch hospitality was never lacking in this home, and always at this board were the lads pressed, as a matter of course, to take their regular glass of ale or wine. A little matter perhaps, some may think, but the result of which none could foresee!

Years passed on. Hugh's sixteenth birthday came and went, and soon the accumulated money was drawn up to send him to Cambridge. He now decided that he would study for a doctor, for which career, there was no doubt whatever, he was eminently fitted, and

straightway he plunged into all the work necessary to fit him for such a course. As a medical student he was an immense favorite with all. Handsome, genial, hearty, he made friends with everyone. At all houses where he visited the ready glass of wine or spirits was always offered still, and, as a matter of course, accepted. None but his most intimate chums knew that, after a few years had passed, Hugh McGorman was occasionally taken home to his rooms at night in such a befuddled state through drink that he could not have found his way there alone. None but these bosom friends knew the reason that his oak was sported the morning following these relapses, on pretext of illness, headache or something similar.

Hugh had always, from his very childhood, been accustomed to see wine or spirits on the table, and to partake of it (thank God that this custom is slowly but surely becoming a thing of the past) and so, quite unperceptibly, the subtle habit took possession of him with greater and more resistless force, until at last it became quite a foregone conclusion amongst his student friends that Hugh was invited to spend an evening out, he would invariably succumb to the influence of drink before the evening was half over, and require assistance to reach home safely.

"My dear fellow, why on earth can't you make up your mind to refuse to accept any more, when you feel you have had enough!"

"It's impossible, quite impossible! I do not believe I really know when that point is reached."

"Why, McGorman, you must feel your senses getting muddled and your wits deserting you, at a certain point. A bright, clever fellow like you! It's not as if you were a half-educated man, or half-witted, or anything like that."

"No, it's worse, far worse! The desire for more gets stronger hold upon me the more I take, and if I gave it up entirely I believe it would be the death of me."

"Old friend, you terrify and shock me! If the craving has already come to such a pitch as that, then, the only safe thing for you to do is to sign the pledge at once, and become a total abstainer. I have been a moderate drinker all my life, but I am ready this moment to sign the pledge if you will do the same. Dear old boy, do be persuaded; moderate drinking will never suit you! With your fiery nature and eager temperament, half measures will never do for you. It must be all or nothing!"

"Oh, nonsense! there's no harm done as yet! I can't do a thing like that all of a hurry. I must think over it and sleep upon it. My time at the hospital is nearly up, and when I blossom out in a full-blown medical practitioner, and get away from all the other fellows, and from the thousand and one temptations of town life, I shall be sure to do better, and feel the influence of the cursed thing less and less. You know my father has bought me a practice in Glasgow, and I am very shortly to be married."

"I only hope it may be so, but my experience is the other way about. Strike now, while the iron is hot! If you wait until you are setting up a practice of your own, you may have even less inclination then to get rid of the habit than you have now."

"Oh, hush, old man! let's change the conversation, now. I won't do it at present, so that's flat"; and, putting his hands in his pockets, his hat at the back of his head, and whistling a gay waltz tune, Hugh McGorman sauntered out of the room.

The young man who was left alone there looked after his friend with a grieved and sorrowful expression, and whispered to himself in a low voice: "I'm awfully mistaken if it's not the ruin of him, body and soul. He is far more under its influence than he dreams of, but there, it's no earthly use saying any more at present. I shall not leave off, however, as long as he is here, trying to get him to sign the pledge, for I am convinced 'tis his only salvation. With such a career before him, too! and such bright prospects! Oh, the pity of it, that he should be ruined and dragged down to hell by drink!"

The foregoing conversation took place one bright morning in June, between two medical students; both bright, good looking young fellows, evidently Scotch,

