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Autobiography: Temperance vs. intemperance. The story of a man who has experienced the life of a drunkard

James Woodbury

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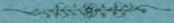
JAMES WOODBURY

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

JAMES WOODBURY,

Of Winterport, Maine.



Temperance vs. Intemperance.

THE STORY OF A MAN WHO HAS EXPERIENCED
THE BITTER LIFE OF A DRUNKARD.

Drunkard, turn and leave thy bowl,
Turn and save thy deathless soul;
From thy lips the poison fling—
Dash away the accursed thing.

BOSTON:

C. C. ROBERTS, PRINTER, 24 CONGRESS STREET.

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PRICE, 25 CENTS.

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PREFACE.

It is with much reluctance that I present to the public a history of my life; and unlike most other autobiographers, I do not by any means place myself as an example to be followed by the reader, for it may well be said that the best of my life has not only been thrown away, but has passed to the advantage of immorality; for, behold the man in a state of intoxication, a patron of the most degrading ten-penny rum-shops, with an innocent, poorly clad and half-starved family of children at home crying for bread, and he spending his last penny in one of those hellish dungeons for the intoxicating beverage. It was thus that many years of my life was passed. When I was brought to see my position in society, the disgrace I was bringing upon myself and friends, the foul air I was breathing; when by magic as it were, the past was laid before me, with a realization of the future, then I put on a new armor, fought under new colors, with Faith, Hope and Charity as my emblems, and Temperance, Virtue and Integrity as my mottoes. And God being my helper, I will ever support them.

Having no diary I am obliged to trust to memory for facts and incidents, so it must not be presumed that I am to enter into the minute details of my life, but to give but a limited account of my course, showing how easily the moderate drinker becomes the lowest inebriate.

JAMES WOODBURY.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

I was born in the month of March, 1819, in the town of Wilmot, Nova Scotia. When about the age of seven, my younger brother had a violent attack of sickness which proved fatal. It was then the custom and the *practice* in that country, at the loss of a relative or near friend, instead of looking upon it as a solemn dispensation of Providence that should be submitted to with Christian resignation, to make the sad more sad by attempting to bury their feelings—which is the work of the Almighty—by the use of that, which to-day, in this State, is regarded as a crime and a disgrace in which to traffic in any way or form, and counted worse than useless—a liquid and fatal poison to both soul and body.

My father being an admirer of this custom, immediately dispatched me on horseback with a gallon jug to get filled with rum, for this work and the sorrow attending it was intolerable without stimulus. I being young, and not realizing that the loss with which we had met, could never be replaced, or what this custom of moderate drinking would terminate in, was pleased to go to town on the errand. The horse being saddled and bridled, I took the jug, and, mounting the horse, made my way to town.

I did the errand, and when on my way home I chanced to meet a neighbor, who inquired what I had in the jug. Without checking my speed, (for I was sent in haste) I replied, "A jug of rum for funeral purposes."

On my arrival home I found many of the neighbors at the house, assisting in making preparations for the funeral, and

manifesting a great amount of sympathy on the occasion, administering words of comfort and consolation to the mourners, and weeping and sobbing over the remains of the departed child ; but notwithstanding all this, there was no demonstration of sympathy or kindness which appeared to reach the soul with so much relief and comfort, and so effectually, as the social glass which was immediately resorted to.

It seemed to strike home to the hearts of all who participated therein, and all weeping and sobbing ceased ; words of comfort no longer were spoken, and the light of happiness and bliss shone in upon the soul with a brilliancy and warmth to be imagined but not expressed. O, what corruption, sin and disgrace in the house of mourning. My father, at that time, was a moderate drinker, with a large amount of property, but as the small streams go to make the rivers and lakes, and these the ocean, so the deepest sorrow, and vilest disgrace, and the greatest drunkards, have their origin in the first social glass. From this, *appetite* has its origin ; it courses its way onward with time and habit, thousands of other evils every day crowding in upon the victim, until the great ocean of evil, sorrow and disgrace is complete. Men of noble minds and eminent ability, and with bright prospects before them, holding a worthy and respectable position in life, have fallen to want, disgrace, poverty and shame, all originating from the social glass. My father, once wealthy, possessing everything to make life pleasant and happy, during the short space of two years, became reduced to penury, want and shame, and his family turned out of doors, he imprisoned, and all the result of moderate drinking. Here was a family of five children, the oldest but fifteen years of age, thrown from a comfortable home to complete poverty. My grandfather, upon hearing of the misfortune that had befallen us, and being in comfortable circumstances, welcomed us to a home at his own

residence, where we remained in comfort and peace for a short time, when my father was released from prison, and while under the influence of intoxicating liquor came to the home of my grand-father, took me from my mother, and carried me away and boarded me out with a stranger until I was fourteen years of age.

After remaining with my new master a short time, I learned that he drank very freely, and led a life of misery and debauchery almost equal to that of my father. My new home soon became worse and more miserable for me than ever before, for there I had not the aid of a kind mother, nor the protection of elder brothers. I well remember the bottles and glasses in my master's liquor closet, and of his neighbors and friends coming in and drinking with him almost every day; men of highest rank in society, even the clergy and deacons, and occasionally I used to get a drink myself, and when left alone, as I occasionally was, I used to help myself. Well do I remember the first time I was ever intoxicated. It was when all were away from home, and I received a visit from a little playmate. A part of the day had passed off very pleasantly, as we had amused ourselves with children's games, but to make ourselves more happy, I thought I would follow the example of my master, and I accordingly obtained the keys to his liquor closet and took down the black bottle and glasses and invited my chum to have something to drink with me. He assented, and seemed very thankful for the opportunity. We paraded ourselves out on the floor and commenced drinking to the health and happiness of the Queen, my master, each other, and the community generally. But a short time elapsed before the black bottle was the only one of the three capable of taking care of itself, or more plainly expressed, Willie and I were both laid out on the floor dead drunk.

I remained with my new master three years, during which time I suffered the most cruel treatment from him that can be imagined. Believing that I could obtain a better home for myself, I concluded to remain no longer than to lay a plan for my escape. After completing my preparations, I waited for an opportunity to carry my plans into effect. By overcoming a few obstacles I made my escape in the night, passing my mother's residence without venturing to call, for fear I might be overtaken by my master and carried back, so I passed on in my strange journey all that night and the ensuing day, barefoot, and with no food. As the next night drew near I thought I must have sleep if possible, and some food. As it grew dark I went into a barn to remain for the night. Early the next morning I started again on my journey, but without food. I became so faint and completely exhausted with hunger that I was compelled to call for food. As I related my history and told them my designs, the table was immediately prepared for me. I took my dinner, and was heartily welcomed. As I was starting the kind-hearted woman gave me some food to take with me so that I might not again be tormented by hunger. I reached Waterford, one hundred and fifty miles from home and friends, but with the hope that I should not be again a resident of that house which for three years had been a miniature hell to me.

I hired with a man for one year, on the conditions that he should give me my board, clothes, and three months' schooling. I remained with him a year, as I had agreed, and he came far from fulfilling *his* agreements, for I had been kept hard at work, furnished with no clothes, and as for schooling, during this time I never saw the inside of a school-house. At the end of the year, I determined to leave, but had no clothes or money, and no friends to help me get home. For many long, weary days I laid plans to get home, when my

way was made clear. After suffering the most violent abuse from my master, one Sabbath morn, while he was under the influence of intoxicating liquor, I made my escape and concealed myself in a pile of rubbish by the roadside. While lying there and thinking what was to become of me, a stranger came along, who inquired what was the cause of this trouble? I explained to him my condition and how I had been treated for a year, and he took my hand and said to me, "Come home with me and I will see if I cannot find a good home for you." O, how glad I was to hear those words, for a good home I had not seen for three years. I was glad to go with him, and when we arrived at his house he said he wished me to remain with him as long as I saw fit, and he would give me all the advantages that could be expected in that vicinity, and when I wished to go home to my folks, he he would see that I was well cared for and my way made easy. I accepted this proposition, and was immediately fitted out with clothes, and he being a pious man and accustomed to attend church, it was my practice every Sunday morning to prepare for church, and accompany my master, whose name was John Bigelow, to the house of God. I remained with him one year and two months, during which time he showed me every act of kindness which I could ask for, and I had every reason to love and respect him and to show the highest degree of thankfulness, which I endeavored to do. After being from home so long, I became uneasy and homesick, and of course very anxious to get home to my folks once more. For many days I suffered with these feelings before I went to Mr. B. and expressed my wish. He at once consented and furnished me with new clothes and gave me money to pay my way home. As I was leaving, he came to me and gave me good advice, wished me God speed, and bid me good bye. I left the happiest home I had ever enjoyed since leav-

ing my native home, to find my mother, whom I had not seen or heard from for over two years.

I went to my grand-father's, and the first person I saw there was my mother. You can well imagine the joyful reception that greeted me, for my arrival was wholly unexpected, and they did not know whether I was alive or dead.

I remained at home for one year, and then went to the town of Grenville and shipped on board a packet running between Grenville and St. John. I remained on board of this vessel for quite a number of months, where I suffered treatment worse than brutal. The captain was a man of excellent disposition, possessing qualifications for a higher rank, but Satan had a claim upon him, through the agency of rum, which ruined his manliness and put him in possession of the most tyrannical disposition imaginable.

While on our passage from St. John to Grenville, the captain got intoxicated, and was unable to lend any assistance in managing the craft, consequently the whole responsibility fell upon me. I brought her into port at Grenville, and laid down upon the deck to rest. The captain, awaking from his slumber of intoxication, came upon the deck in a fit of drunken madness, with a piece of inch rope in his hand, and commenced flogging me, for what purpose I have never been able to understand. But taking advantage of the right of self-defense we appropriated a few minutes to interest ourselves in testing our pugilistic capacities, which trial was about to terminate in my favor, when a brother of the captain made his appearance, to the great interest of the captain, but to a decided disadvantage to me, for he let a belaying pin fall upon my cranium with such violence that I, with little or no objection, immediately made my bed upon the deck; in other words, more briefly expressed, he knocked me down. This concluded my labors upon the packet from Grenville to St. John.

I was now compelled to spend a time in idleness, and it was at this time that I enlisted my sympathies with the social drinker. Soon I found employment as a day laborer. I could get work for about half the time and the remainder I spent in idleness and drink. Thus I remained without permanent employment, until hearing from my brother, who was on Salmon River, New Brunswick, I left Grenville and went to Salmon River, where I found employment in mills during the summer and in the woods during the winter season.

Here I remained for a period of seven years, having constant employment and being blessed with good health during the whole time. My habit of drinking was rapidly increasing upon me, and as is always the case, this habit of drinking brought with it many others too numerous to mention, as gambling, quarreling, etc., until I was compelled to leave, a poor, degraded inebriate, leaving behind me, as mementoes, unpaid bills and a reputation for debauchery, disgrace and shame.

I left Salmon River for Martin's Head, on the shore of the Bay of Fundy, to go into the lumbering business. I took a contract to get a certain amount of lumber, hired my men, and was about to go to work, all the necessary preparations being made, with the exception of procuring supplies. It was on February 1st, I left Martin's Head for St. Martin's in a small boat, to get supplies for the woods. While in St. Martin's there came up a violent storm, which prevented my return for quite a number of days; but being anxious to return and commence my work, I determined to start.

On the morning of the thirteenth, while under the influence of liquor, I made the attempt to get home, but decidedly against the wishes and advice of my brother and friends. But while under the influence of alcohol, I was unfit to judge of my ability, or to realize what a hazardous task I was under-

taking, but I determined to run my own risk. The storm increased in violence, the wind blowing stronger. The wind blowing from the south-west and it being on the ebb tide, it was very rough.

I had made but little progress in my way, when the elements got the advantage of me, and my boat was thrown into the trough of the sea and in an instant I found myself overboard, and submitted to the tender mercies of Neptune. Being unable to swim, the force of gravitation carried me to the bottom. As I struck the bottom I sprang upwards and came to the surface of the water, and saw that my boat was some distance from me, and that it was entirely useless for me to attempt to get it, and also that I was quite a distance from the shore and that it was entirely useless for me to attempt to get there. I then gave up the hope of ever reaching home again and concluded that I must drown.

While in this condition, a thousand thoughts were passing through my brain in a moment. I bid farewell to all earthly things and again made an excursion to the bottom, with this one thought to console me, that I was going to the hands of a just God, where justice would be dealt out to me. I suffered no fears of death, but without a struggle or an effort was willing to leave it to my Creator, whose works are works of justice, and whose mercy and blessings are ever being showered upon us. But as I went to the bottom, this thought flitted through my mind, O, my God, what news this will be for mother! and sprang with all the strength and force in my power to the surface for help, but there was none to be seen. My courage began to fail me again, and I was about giving up, when by chance I happened to see a large rock or ledge with the sea breaking over it, and I thought that if I could get to that and cling to it, that perhaps I might soon find help. But how was this to be accomplished? I could not

swim, and my strength was beginning to fail me. As I went down again I kept the location of the ledge in my mind, and as I struck the bottom I leaped towards the ledge, and when I came again to the surface the surf washed me to the desired location. I clung to the sea-weed with the surf breaking over me, carrying me in one direction and another. What was next to be done I did not know, for I was then far from being safe; but I clung fast to the ledge, being continually washed to and fro, and thrashed about upon the ledge, until my clothes were nearly torn from me, and injuries inflicted upon my person which time has never eradicated. My strength was fast wearing away and although but a few rods from land, it was of no use for me to attempt to get there without assistance. My last hope was now about gone, for I might as well have been in the middle of the Atlantic ocean without help, as to be where I was. As I was about to lose my hold and go to the bottom for the last time, one of my oars, was, to my unexpected joy, washed to me. I grasped it at once and sprang across it as my last resort, and almost entirely unexpected to me I succeeded in accomplishing my purpose. As I reached the shore, I found that my boat had drifted upon the beach; and this is the last fact that I am able to give from my own memory for some number of hours, when I was apparently awakened from a sleep by the voice of my brother, who, becoming anxious, had come in pursuit of me. I found myself at the residence of Mr. Melvins, about three-fourths of a mile from the place where I came on shore. There were many obstacles to be overcome in my way from the shore to the house, but I have no recollection of how I ever got there. There was a very high bank to climb, made up of rocks and covered with ice and snow, and how I could ever make my way up that rugged cliff, it is impossible for me to imagine, for it would seem almost an im-

possibility for a man in possession of all his faculties to surmount this mighty obstacle. That I did do it was evident, for my course was followed back through the snow to ascertain how it could be done. When I arrived at the house of Mr. Melvins, as soon as I came to the warm air I fell to the floor. Every act of kindness was shown me, and no pains was spared to make me as comfortable as I could be made. For three hours I remained unconscious of anything taking place in the room where I was or what had befallen me, until I heard the voice of my brother inquiring if they had seen a man going up the bay in a small boat, to which they replied that his brother was in the house in a very critical condition. He came to my room, asked a few questions, and immediately dispatched a messenger for a physician.

I remained here for three days, when I was removed to my brother's at St. Martin's and there was welcomed to a home until I had recovered from the shock. Thus, one can see, that the thirteenth of February was a day that the demon of intemperance had set apart as my pay-day for moderate drinking. I remained at St. Martin's through the season, until the month of October, during which time I was unable to attend to any business or to do any labor.

During my stay at St. Martin's I left off the use of alcoholic stimulants, and was brought to believe and realize in its fullest sense that I owed my existence to Almighty God, and reasoned that I owed him a life of thankfulness and praise, and tried to live in obedience to His commands. But while I was looking over my past life, and seeing it as I had never seen it before, I saw but a series of years worse than thrown away, covered with the breakers of guilt and crime, with not a particle of morality mingled with it. I felt that I was hardly worthy of the name of man, or in any way to be called the disciple of God, and often wished it might please him to

cut the thread of my existence, for life was but a burden, and the future looked more gloomy than the present.

My brother in Calais, Maine, being informed of my state of health and mind, sent for me to come to Calais and remain until I had recovered my health. I then found employment in the woods again, through the winter, and returned to C. in the spring, and began the moderate use of alcoholic stimulants, as it is always termed, for no man will acknowledge that he was ever a drunkard until he has quitted the use of alcohol altogether.

Not finding employment in Calais I remained there but a short time, but long enough to drink and gamble all my money away. I thought I would seek a place where alcohol was not so generally used, if such a place was to be found. Previous to looking for employment, I made a visit to my mother in Wilmot, Nova Scotia; from thence I went to Port Midway river, and went to work as a mill-wright, continuing my habit of drinking, which absorbed all of my wages as I went along, and encroached on the future. Not being able to meet my expenses in this business with the salary I received, I obtained a situation as overseer of a mill, with a much higher salary, but found the same difficulty. The higher my wages were, the greater were my expenses. I remained in this situation the remainder of the season and in the following winter took charge of a gang of our men in the woods under still higher pay, but from the use of alcohol I lost my situation and was compelled to leave the place. In order to procure the means to leave, I was compelled to sell a part of my clothing, whereas, I ought to have had money by me; but I had made a complete transfer of my wages to the rum-seller. After spending so long a time under high wages, I was compelled to leave the place with no money, credit or character, and only cared for by two sheriffs, who were in

close pursuit. After traveling by road twenty-six hours, knowing that the officers were in close pursuit of me, I went into the woods to conceal myself. The sheriffs being close upon me followed me directly into the woods, but they soon lost track of me, and I had concealed myself in some underbrush and tall grass by the side of a log, where it so happened that the officers came along, walked the length of it, consulting between themselves as to whether or not it would be best to arrest me if they came across me, not thinking that I was one of the listeners at the time and but a few feet from them. While lying there and listening, I learned their plans to arrest or attempt to arrest me, and consequently knew what means to take to meet them. They soon left the woods, and I with renewed vigor pursued my way. In the course of a few hours they came up to me again, but knowing that if I made much resistance and was very obstinate and resolute, that they were not intending to attempt the arrest, I determined not to run or be taken alive by anybody. As they came up to within a few rods of me, I turned about and drawing two pistols from my pockets, one in each hand, cautioned them not to advance another step, or I would use my utmost efforts to shoot them both, and if I was carried back by them I should go a dead man, and would give them but two minutes to start for home, for I had not the least idea of being put to any further trouble or expense for flogging a man when I was intoxicated upon his own liquor, or upon liquor that I had bought of him and paid him for. When the time which I had given them had expired, I cocked both my pistols and brought them to bear upon the officers, and remarked to them that it was about time for them to be making their ESCAPE, for I had made mine, or had done all towards it that I intended to do. They viewed the matter in the same light that I did, and wheeled their horses about and

made for home. As they left me I drew a flask of brandy from my pocket, and drinking to their health, wished them safely home, and we parted, and I have never seen them since.

I pursued my way until I had reached the city of Frederickton, an entire stranger, with but one dollar in my pocket, and with a greater admiration for rum than respectability of character to recommend me for a situation. But notwithstanding this great obstacle, I succeeded in finding employment with an individual by the name of John Glasier, to go up the river St. John about two hundred miles and take charge of getting out a lot of timber.

After working there but a comparatively short time, where I was deprived of alcoholic stimulants, I went out of the woods to an Irish shanty and got drunk, and on my return to camp I laid down to rest, and fell asleep, and was picked up by a stranger and taken to his camp, senseless of where I was. For several days I was unable to be carried to camp or to take care of myself. As soon as I recovered from the shock and from the effects of the cold to which I had been exposed, I continued to drink until I had exhausted the supply of liquor which I had taken along with me. It was now that I was seized with that low, grovelling, most detestable disease that flesh is heir to—DELIRIUM TREMENS—imagining that I was being favored with visitations from the most horrid forms and loathsome animals that can be imagined but not described; the huge serpent, winding itself about my body, ready to thrust its forked weapon into my flesh, unless I submitted to the rules and regulations of his own disposition, while the angels of darkness were hovering around to carry the tidings home, interspersed here and there with one of those chief rulers, brandishing his instruments of torture, and approving the most horrid acts perpetrated by those

worse than satanic forms, For many hours I was engaged in fighting off these horrid demons. Such are the fruits of intemperance, ripe and ready for harvest. I recovered from this horrid debauch in about one week's time, so that I was enabled to be carried to my camp, but was unfit to perform the work for many days. I remained in the woods during the remainder of the season, and attempted to drive a raft of lumber down the river on my return home; but our food was such and had been such through the winter, that many of us were seized with the scurvy, and consequently compelled to quit the drive and resort to a canoe as our next best method of getting home. As we arrived at Great Falls it appeared to be the impression of all that we had better call and rest for a day or two, until we could go on more comfortably. We accordingly went ashore to recruit. During our four days stay at Great Falls we were favored with the most cordial reception in any place, where the rum that made us drunk was duly paid for. And I am sorry to say that we were very thankful for such kindness and not only got drunk and paid for it, but got drunk and didn't pay for it, and carried it a step further, by getting into a quarrel with the citizens and among ourselves, making ourselves notorious.

After staying here a few days we furnished ourselves with a supply of rum and started again down the river.

During the remainder of our journey, we kept ourselves well filled with liquor, and while in a state of intoxication performed many hazardous feats with perfect recklessness; such as running over rapids, which had never been done before but with loss of life. We soon landed all safe at the city of Fredericton and took rooms at the North American House.

Here I drew my winter's wages, which supplied my wants for a period of a little less than three weeks. I then found

myself minus funds and with two bills to be paid, viz :—two weeks board, and five dollars for rum, for which I was sued ; and there being some defect in the business transactions, I was discharged by the Justice, which resulted in a rather unpopular and illiterate quarrel between myself and opponent. Thus the matter was ultimately settled by my changing my boarding place.

Being now reduced to want again, and having established a reputation worse than none, I was compelled to seek employment and to take up with the first chance I could find, which was to work by night in a steam mill, and this was but a temporary situation, and taken with the understanding that I should curtail my drinking. I worked a few weeks using but a moderate amount of liquor, but at last was overcome by the tempter and got intoxicated, which proved quite a serious lesson to me, for I carelessly caught my hand in the circular saw and mangled it quite badly, so again I lost my situation.

Early in the morning I went to town to see a physician, but I chanced to meet an aged gentleman who informed me that he would dress my hand for me, and he thought he could do it as satisfactorily as any one, and that I should be welcome to any assistance that he could render me. With but a moment's consideration I thanked him very kindly and placed confidence in him. He took me to his house where there was every act of kindness shown me, and I at once placed full confidence in the family, and felt the highest degree of respect for them. I was welcomed to a home there, at any and all times when I saw fit to come. I soon formed an attachment for a young lady here, that time thus far has never severed. It was my custom to go and have my hand dressed every night, not so much thinking that my hand needed so close attention as this would seem, but it was through the agency of my hand that I was enabled to seek the admiration

of the old gentleman's daughter and demonstrate to my own satisfaction, the truthfulness of there being *no great loss without some small gain*. In order to gain the affections of this angelic being I found that I must part with that soul-destroying passion which I had so long hugged to my bosom, for alcoholic liquors of any form was held in abhorrence by the one whose kind acts and facinating smiles already won a respect and admiration from one which had never been accomplished by any one. I at once complied with her wishes, to leave of the habit of drinking, (or I promised her) feeling certain I should quit the habit. But it was so fastened upon me that it seemed impossible for me to entirely abstain from its use. I curtailed my habit of drinking, in a great measure, and what I drank was done privately; and when it so happened that I did drink when I was about to be brought in contact with her whom I wished to keep it hidden from, it was my custom to make a free use of aromatics. Here let me caution the young ladies to beware of the smell of onions, snake-root, &c., for they speak in the loudest tones that there is rum behind all this aroma. I frequently would go out of town for no other purpose than to gratify my intolerable thirst for rum. Hardly a day would pass but I would put in a promise to abstain from its use, and it was my strongest wish that I might. But the city of Frederickton was no place for me to attempt to execute my wishes or keep my promise, for every store was a rum-shop, and every house a tippling place, and the influence of my associates was so strong, and my moral courage so weak, that whenever I was asked to drink, (which was at most any and all times,) I had not the courage to say *no, I will not!* Notwithstanding the excess to which I drank, it was not generally known that I used as much as I did at that time, and I was consequently not looked upon as a drunkard, but a "moderate drinker," which, in the public

mind, does not injure one's reputation very materially. During the time that I was in Frederickton my expenses for liquors were almost equal to my wages.

I took pains to court the acquaintance of respectable people and to move in good society, and frequently spoke disparagingly of my former associates, often wishing that they would not speak to me, or else do as I had done and break loose from those chains that had so long bond them in disgrace, and which were every day dragging them down and making them fit subjects for slander and disgrace, which they would be compelled to withstand from the mouths of every moral person, while I was at heart the vilest of them all. There was not a breath of air entered my lungs, nor a particle of fluid coursing through the canals of my body, but was impregnated with the foul vices of rum.

There was not a man of good character and temperate habits, however poor, who walked the streets of the city, that I did not envy his comfort and the sympathy which he received from the strong arm of public opinion.

I now found employment as overseer in some mills quite a distance up the river, where I was to receive a high salary so long as I chose to remain and attend to my business. I accordingly took my wife from her native home to the above-mentioned place, with a firm resolution to commence anew in the path of rectitude. For a few months the sun of prosperity shone upon me in full beauty, everything gliding along pleasantly; every morning finding me at my place of business in due time, while at night, instead of drinking, gambling and spending my time thus foolishly, I was found at home enjoying the presence of her whom I had chosen as my companion through life. But soon, as is too often the case, prosperity became intolerable; its bright sun became hidden by the dark clouds of despondency, as previous acts in my life

were day after day haunting me. The memory of the immense evils I had committed was a thorn in my flesh. Hardly could a moment pass, and never could my eyes fall upon my innocent wife, but the thought of the almost unpardonable sin, of the gross deception I had used to her, was in my mind. I sought for relief from almost every source. A spirit of morbid revenge towards myself generated in my bosom. I realized that if my life could be correctly written and placed before the world, that I could be recognized only as the remains of a mass of corruption in society, in the shape of a human being. These were the moments when remorse had laid his hands upon me, and with his rugged grasp determined to make me his victim.

At this time my moral courage failed me. I could no longer fight the desperate demon without help from some source or other. Pride forbade me making an acknowledgment to God, and plead with Him for help; nor had I the moral courage to do so. On my return from my work at night as I was going to my house, I involuntarily went into one of the dungeons, for relief in the cup of intoxicating poison. One glass, and another, and another,—and this for the first time since my marriage. Hour after hour passed on; I kept no record of time. Not one moment would I allow the thought of an anxious wife at home to enter my mind.

Every passer-by was anxiously watched by her, to see if it could not be me. Every voice and every footstep was wished to be that of her, as she thought, innocent, but really drunken husband, whose soul was black with guilt and shame. But alas! the clock struck nine, and he had not come; something must have happened or he would have been here before this. But no, she is informed that he is safe, but busy. Time passed on, but still no signs of him, and “I will rest easy for he is safe, I am told,” were her thoughts. The night passed

on, but I sought for no other place to stop. I had my place at the gambling-table, drinking and gambling until morning, when the anxiety of my wife became intolerable to her, and she determined to find where I was and what my business could be, that it would not allow me time for meals and sleep. With these resolutions she came in search of her drunken husband. At last she was directed to the place where I could be found. Ah, what could have been the feelings of a wife as she entered that cell of iniquity in pursuit of her husband! As she burst open the door she saw me sitting at the gambling-table. With agonizing shrieks she threw her arms about my neck, and in a moment winning me from that dungeon where every principle and vice surcharged with iniquity, was bred and practiced.

O, imagine, if you can, my reader, the deep sorrow and despair of that woman's heart, as she for the first time in her life, saw her husband in that loathsome den, impregnated with the vices of intoxication. It may be imagined, but language cannot portray it. Through this debauch, the book containing the trials, in part, of her future life, was plainly laid open before her.

After this furious display of drunkenness, I continued the habit of moderate drinking, interspersed here and there with fits of maddening intoxication, until I was compelled to leave my business and return to the city of Faederickton, broken down in health, and poor, in the strictest sense of the word. I remained in Frederickton through the ensuing winter, unable, on account of ill health, which I had brought upon myself during my career of excessive drinking, to attend to any business whatever.

In the spring of 1847 I was elected as Constable for the County, and Chief of Police in the city. There was then opened to me a good field for business, and every indication

of prosperity shown before me in full magnificence. I at once entered upon the duties of my office, and for a short time attended to them faithfully, and new hope had sprung up in my wife's heart that the tree of life might bring forth fruits of industry and happiness with us. But alas, how sad to recall the fact! The seeds of intemperance had long ago shot forth from their germ, and the evil tree had become too deeply rooted in my soul to be so easily eradicated, although for a short time it had been checked in its growth. It was ready to shoot forth at any time it might receive the first particle of cultivation.

Man is a social being; I had formed acquaintances who were in the habit of using ardent spirits moderately as a social practice. The temptation was too great for me to withstand. I had realized its effects in the past to the fullest extent. I looked forward into the future and saw my life before me, and determined never to become a low drunkard again, but thought that a social glass, now and then, could be no evil, but on the contrary, be of some material benefit to me. I took my first glass, and this opened the way for others, and ere long my social habits became worse than brutal ones. The deputy sheriff being a man of intemperate habits, and for a large part of the time unfit to attend to the duties of his office, a greater responsibility rested upon me. The habit of drinking rapidly increased upon me, so that ere long I was for the major part of the time unfit to attend to any business whatever. During my term of office, my duties at times were such as to greatly excite my sympathy. Frequently have I taken the clothes from the beds, and furniture from the house, to pay the rent, and it was quite often the case that I would resort to liquor to cover up all feelings of sympathy, and while under the influence of spirit, would frequently be bondsman for the prisoner, or go bail for him, and

as a consequence of these procedures, I lost a great deal of my wages, and drank excessively, so at the end of the year I was compelled to quit the place, leaving my usual testimonial of unpaid bills. I then came to Calais, Maine, to do whatever I might find to do. When I left Frederickton I was followed by a sheriff, so that I realized in its fullest sense the feelings of many innocent men whom I had pursued as closely the previous year.

While on our way from Frederickton to Calais, my wife, in tears, was constantly beseeching me to try once more to abstain from the use of liquor. My answers were the same as are usually given in such cases, namely, that there was but one life for us, and that it was best to make the best of it, and I thought there was no danger of becoming a low character if I drank no more than I did then, or had for a year past. Such are the excuses made by every drinking character when he has got so low that he can scarcely tell the difference between decency and indecency, and rather inclines to favor the latter.

Upon arriving at Calais, I received what might well be called a rum promotion, being promoted from a sheriff's office to the situation of a day laborer, carrying bricks and mortar for a mason. I have frequently observed these promotions down hill in the course of a rum-drinker's career.

Not being extensively interested in this pursuit, I obtained a situation in the caulking business, of which I had but a limited idea. I soon became master of my business and gained the confidence of the ship-builders, and soon controlled all that branch of business in the vicinity. Again prosperity shone before me. I had wrenched myself from the rugged chains of intemperance, but the mighty thirst lingered about me still, and I was continually at war with that. I was determined to conquer this acquired thirst for, or proclivity to,

degradation. Month after month passed, until at last I was compelled to give myself up to the enemy. The rum-shops, those hellish dungeons inhabited by the demons of iniquity, with their all-devouring appetites for mankind, were the places of my resort. Home, with its fireside, was no place of happiness for me. Night after night was spent in drinking, gambling and rioting, respecting neither my duties as a man, nor the vows I had taken. I was, at the time I commenced drinking, employing a large number of men, and it became me to hold myself in readiness to oversee the business. Time passed; my patronage was becoming perceptibly less; I frequently became intoxicated in the first part of the day, and remained so for many hours, and sometimes met with accidents, unfitting me for labor for days and weeks at a time, mingling and taking an active part in every quarrel and drunken broil with which I came in contact, and as a compensation I gained a great familiarity with the inside of the lockup by my frequent compulsive patronage.

Such were my habits and conduct, that at the expiration of five years I had lost the control of all my business, and was compelled to quit the place to find employment.

My wife's uncle was at that time living at Campobello Island; being a mill agent, he at once secured me a situation in a mill, where I remained about a year. While here I made no effort to abstain from the use of liquor as a beverage, pursuing the same course of life that had before marked my existence. At last I got into a drunken row, receiving injuries which unfitted me for labor for a number of days, and which resulted in my being discharged without the trouble of putting in my resignation.

A reputation of being one of the lowest drunkards that ever inhaled the vital air or inhabited this globe, was the only memory that I left when I came away from Campobello

Island. As I look back to those days, I can but compare myself to a rum cask made in the form of a man, and containing the power or elements of life.

I again came to Calais and took up again the business of a caulker, but on a very similar scale, just managing to pay my bills by keeping my family poorly clad and enjoying none of the advantages of life. My whole course of life was but a series of moves from place to place, (being compelled to do so to find employment) dragging with me my wife and children. She, once happy and enjoying all the luxuries of life, but now through the means of a drunken husband, reduced to this! Here, my wife, realizing the great responsibility resting upon her in training up a family of children in the way they should go, and knowing that if my conduct was continued in the way I had commenced, that the duty would wholly devolve upon her, felt that she needed wisdom from a higher and nobler source. She put her confidence in the all-wise God, asking him not only to protect her children and save them from pursuing a course of life analogous to that of their father's, but that He would give her wisdom to direct them in the path of virtue and integrity, and to assist her in bearing the burdens which had fallen upon her through the conduct of her husband, for at that time she knew not at night where we should get our food for the following day. Many are the times that I have gone home at night to my family intoxicated, and heard my wife pleading with her God for the salvation of the husband. But all her prayers and all her expostulations were labor without reward for a long time; for my life, day by day, became more and more miserable. Abstinence from this man-killing poison was an idea that I would not allow myself to indulge in for a moment. My heart had become impregnable to good advice or kind wishes from any source, or with anything pertaining to or connected

with good morals in any way or form. Such is the riper fruit of drunkenness, having its origin in the enriched soil of moderate drinking.

I remained in Calais two years, my wages scarcely meeting my demands, and I consequently was deprived of many articles necessary to make my family comfortable, and even my allowance of stimulus was sometimes curtailed from the same cause, which of course was the more to be regretted by me. Believing that I might better my condition in some other locality, I became very anxious to leave. I accordingly went in search of a situation where I might find permanent employment, and engaged myself for an unspecified time, and was to enter upon my labor at once. I returned to my family in Calais, intending to prepare to move at once, but found my wife unwilling to comply with my wish. I was desirous of breaking away from the class of associates with which I had connected myself, and see if I could not at the same time break loose from those accursed bonds of intemperance, and try and become a man again. Such were my own thoughts, but I had never made them known to my family. I soon found that my wife's unwillingness to move was simply because she preferred to remain in Calais, where she had friends to help her. Upon learning this fact, I at once made a solemn promise to her that I would quit the excessive use of liquors and form a new class of associates, and that neither she nor the children should suffer again from my conduct or negligence of duty, if she would but comply with my wish. She at once acquiesced, and was willing to sacrifice almost anything if I could become a sober man. Preparations were at once made to move, and we were soon on our way. On my arrival I at once went to work. My employer was a man by the name of Joseph Fish, who is still living, and was then a member of the Baptist church. Mr. Fish

was a trader, and a large part of his business consisted in selling liquors. I also found many acquaintances with whom I had been in the habit of drinking, and by a combination of all these influences and temptations, strengthened by an inordinate appetite, I was unable to keep my promise made to my wife, but thought I would limit the amount which I should drink, and that limit should be within the bounds of decency and respectability. I succeeded for a long time, but the habit was slowly gaining upon me again, until at last I found myself following the same course as heretofore, and even worse than before. I remained with Mr. Fish about a year and a half, getting along with him comparatively well until I got intoxicated upon liquor which he had given me, when we had a serious quarrel, resulting in pretty rough usage towards him and terminating in my discharge. Such was the course of my life in St. George for a year and a half. Not being able to find employment, I shipped on board a vessel bound for Savannah, Georgia, again promising my broken-hearted wife that I would drink no more until my return. But on my arrival at Savannah, the first object that forcibly struck my attention was an infamous Southern grog-shop, and very soon I was completely intoxicated, mingling myself in a drunken row, and in a few moments more was being escorted to the lockup by the police. Being completely intoxicated, I did not realize that I was in close confinement until the next morning, when I was astonished to find myself under lock and key, minus my hat, coat, money and everything that could be taken from me. I was fined four dollars, but being not entirely without friends I paid my fine, bought me a hat, and soon found employment in the city, receiving from three to five dollars a day, and commenced drinking and gambling my money away, as I earned it. I soon lost all care for home, and was even ashamed to write to my family, and had

made up my mind never to let them hear from me again; but I was continually receiving letters from my wife, saying that they were suffering extremely for food and clothes, and also that one of the children was very sick and was not expected to recover; that they were dependent upon the neighbors for their food and protection from day to day, and praying for my return as soon as possible. Notwithstanding the reception of this news from home I was determined not to write or send any message home, and not to let them know of my conduct in Savannah. But my wife, not hearing from me for a long time and not knowing where I was, or how I was situated, became anxious to learn something of me, and wrote to an acquaintance by the name of Captain Willard, for information. He came to me and wished me to return with him to St. George, telling me of the condition of my family, and strongly enforcing the necessity of my return. I positively declined going at the time, and was not at first disposed to listen to him at all, or give him any encouragement that I would ever return home. He was determined to have an answer from me before he left that should be favorable to my return. I told him I would not go home with him or anybody else then, but would endeavor to start soon. I remained in Savannah six months from the time when I first arrived, following a course of life which it would be beyond my power to describe. In fact I became one of the most miserable specimens of humanity ever under the control of alcohol. While in Savannah and disposed to work, I received my wages at the close of every week, at the rate of four and five dollars per day, and during my stay there, remitted to my family thirty dollars, and on my arrival at St. George I could show but seven dollars, making in all thirty-seven dollars as the amount saved in six months and a half, under pay of from four to five dollars per day. I reached home in June and

found my family suffering all that it would seem poverty could reduce them to. They had neither food nor clothes to make them comfortable, and were dependent upon the kindness of their neighbors from day to day, for support. Many things had been sold from the house to defray necessary expenses; at night I could hear my children crying for hunger, with nothing to pacify them but the kind words and promises that fell from the lips of their Christian mother.

Notwithstanding the cruelty and coldness with which I had treated them, and the loss of all parental care and affection which I had ever possessed for them, and the vileness and iniquity of my heart from the use of alcohol, this scene was too appalling and heart-rending for me to bear. I rejoice that there was yet left some of the spirit of humanity that was capable of being reached. I resolved at once to exert my utmost efforts in trying to relieve my own family from this deplorable condition, and not to put a drop of that poisonous fluid to my lips until that was accomplished. I immediately went to work again with Mr. Fish, and soon my home was made pleasant and comfortable. Days, weeks and months passed, until a year of time was gone, and I had not yet violated the obligation which I had taken, and that morbid appetite had, as I supposed, been brought very effectually under subjection. Sickness came upon our family, and one was taken from our circle. This, though the work of the Supreme Being, was almost intolerable to me. I could find no reconciliation to this mournful event. As I returned to my house after my day's labor, where there was one missing whose presence and voice seemed necessary to complete the happiness of our little family, clouds of gloom and despondency came between me and the bright sun of happiness. Now was the time when I madly sought refuge in the intoxicating cup, and the first time that I gave way to that satanic appe-

tite, I went home to my mourning family wild with intoxication. What must have been the feelings of that woman whose cup of sorrow was then filled to overflowing, when her husband came home to her mad with drunkenness! This may be better imagined than described. From this time my life was but a series of drunken carousals from day to day, until I was discharged by my employer, and my family again in the most reduced circumstances.

As I could no longer find employment in St. George I was forced to seek it elsewhere, and without delay, for my family was already suffering for want of the necessaries of life. At my first outset in pursuit of employment I was told that I might probably get employment with Treat & Co, at Frankfort. I immediately wrote to them. I soon received an answer that their work would soon be ready, and that I could have permanent employment with them if I wished. I at once determined to go, and proceeded to make preparations for our departure. My wife again raised objections to changing her residence immediately, unless the prospect could be made to appear better than it did then. We had already made many moves, and it had thus far been a continual change from bad to worse. But as I was desirous, in fact determined, to go, I was willing to make almost any sacrifice or promise necessary to accomplish the object, and at last by faithfully promising that this should be our last move, and that I would once more try to abstain from the use of strong drink, I succeeded in overcoming her objections, as she was ready to sacrifice anything for my reform.

All preparations to move were hastily completed, and I left home a short time before the rest of the family, for the purpose of securing a house to move into. As I left home I renewed my promise and gave them positive assurance that I would not indulge myself in the use of a drop of stimulus

until I saw them again; I came to Rockland to take the boat and had hardly reached the city when I thoughtlessly violated my pledge, and one night's residence in Rockland diminished my finances from twenty dollars to ten cents, which I gave a boy to carry me into the bay and put me on board of a tug-boat which was bound up the river to Bucksport. As we rowed up to the boat I stated to Captain Snow, who commanded her, what my situation was, and that I was very anxious to get to Frankfort as soon as I could, and I had no means to get there at that time, and that I would try and satisfy him for his trouble at some time, if he would be kind enough to take me along with him. Captain Snow was a man characterized by acts of nobility and hospitality, and whose kindness and manliness were enough to inspire any man to pursue the right course. He, without a moment's consideration, took me on board. During the time I was with him I related to him a portion of my history; a course with which he could in no way sympathize, but strongly recommended me to change the course of my life, or ere long I would be in utter ruin, beyond the reach of all earthly reformatory power. The short conversation I had with him made a strong impression upon me at the time, and I was desirous of complying with his advice, but moral courage was wanting in me to do so. Never shall those golden words as they fell from his mouth, be forgotten. To-day they ring through my mind as though they had been spoken but yesterday.

When I arrived at Bucksport, Captain S. went with me to the public house and introduced me to the proprietor, stating my case in brief, and asked him to treat me accordingly. I was welcomed to remain with him for the night, and in the morning my bills were paid to Frankfort. On my arrival I found that Treat & Co.'s work was not yet ready and would not be for some weeks, and I was, in consequence of this,

compelled to obtain a situation elsewhere for a short time, in order to pay my way. I very readily found a situation, but at the expiration of a few days, as I was paid off, that inordinate desire for rum again came upon me with irresistible violence, and I was compelled to yield to its power, which terminated, in a few days, in my discharge. I was compelled to strike out again for a situation, for I had reduced the amount that I had earned in Frankfort, (which was but small) to nothing at all. I was then among strangers with neither money or friends to assist me. I found it impossible to obtain a situation in Frankfort for the time being, and was compelled to look elsewhere. I fortunately found employment at Frankfort Branch, a few miles distant from Frankfort Village.

My first night's stay at Frankfort Branch was a poor recommendation to my employer, for I came in contact with many who were in the habit of stimulating, and being anxious to introduce me to the inhabitants of the little country village, and myself being equally anxious to be introduced and made as conspicuous as possible, was not at all backward in performing my proportional part of the introductory services, viz.: to drink hard and often, and see who would be the drunkest man at the close of the performance. At the "noon of night," when perfect quietness reigned through the village, except in our little party who were in the height of a satanic jubilee, some small, insignificant matter, came up, which was just the matter to interest a company of intoxicated men, and as is always the case the company took sides, and as the result of that night's industry in drinking, many of us reaped the ordinary fruits of a drunken row,—blackened eyes, bruised faces, and broken and knocked out teeth. The next morning I was to commence my work, and as I went to my work in the morning I found one of my last night's companions there. Both of us being in a somewhat depressed condition, from the

potations of the previous evening, and suffering from extreme headache and nervousness, sought relief, under the principle of homœopathy, "*Similia similibus curanter*," or *similars cure similars*, and at once started for the dungeon in which we met the night before, but after careful consideration we thought it necessary to take an allopathic dose, to be soon repeated if the desired effect was not produced. We were soon under the influence of the stimulus, and then the work before us to be done was of no particular consequence. And thus our time was passed for two or three days, drinking and quarreling without regard to our business, as to what was for the interest of our employers, who, at this time, came to us and asked but one favor of us, which was to stop our drinking, or we must take our discharge forthwith. After this conversation took place we at once quit our foolish practice and for a few weeks drank nothing. When we had completed our work for which we were then engaged, we at once gave vent to our pent up appetites. Rum could be obtained almost anywhere it was called for, and in almost any quantity. We procured our supplies and commenced its use at an abusive rate on Saturday morning, drinking and gambling until almost mid-day Sunday. For several days we continued this debauch, until our stock and funds failed, and we were compelled to stop. It had now been about six weeks since I had left my family, with no means of obtaining anything on which to subsist. How had I kept the solemn promises which I had made them,—and all the fruits of social drinking at first, which is the direct path to complete poverty and drunkenness.

I now sent my wife's brother to St. George to prepare my family to move, for I was soon to have a permanent situation, and I wished to have them with me. In a few days I received information that they were ready and wished for funds. I

had now commenced work where I was to have steady employment, and through the kindness of my employers, I was enabled to charter a small vessel to send for my family. The vessel returned to Frankfort on the fifteenth day from her departure. I had been out drinking and practising other vices connected therewith all night, and was pretty essentially intoxicated when my family arrived. One can well imagine what pride my family must have felt at this reception from their husband and father, among entire strangers. I had already secured a tenement and was prepared to occupy it as soon as my household goods came, and before hardly one day had passed we were again all together at our own fireside, and among strangers, with the head of the family well intoxicated to entertain the rest and care for them. This of course seemed homelike, and reminded them of old times, but I doubt if they appreciated it.

My situation was one of responsibility, and should have had my strictest attention, but instead of caring for it as I should, I gave little heed to it, frequently getting intoxicated to such a degree as to be under the necessity of being helped home in the earlier part of the day, and very often meeting with accidents which would unfit me for business for days.

One pleasant night at the close of my day's work as I was looking over some business on the wharf, the master of a vessel lying in the stream called to me to come on board, that he had business about which he wished to see me. Taking a small boat I rowed to the vessel and found the master to be an intimate acquaintance of mine, whom I had not seen for a long time. I had hardly time to get on board the vessel when he informed me of his business, which was that he had a supply of liquor on board which he wished me to test, as he preferred having company than drinking it alone. Of course I made no attempt to decline, but on the contrary, was

very thankful for the opportunity of setting down with an old friend and taking a social glass now and then to revive old associations, which was customary, and these occasions came about once in five months. I remained on board the vessel until eleven o'clock, when I took my boat and started for the dock. As I drew near the wharf I saw my wife and two children standing there awaiting my return. As I rowed up to the pier I found there was a raft of lumber in my way. I made my boat fast to the wharf and attempted to cross from this to the wharf, the raft lying a few feet from it, and the space between the raft and wharf was drifted full of sawdust and drift-wood. My wife spoke to me, cautioning me not to step upon that; but being wise by drunkenness I replied only with an oath, and walked directly upon the drift-wood, finding myself on rather insecure footing. I immediately sank, and as I came up my wife took hold of me and assisted me in getting out; and long may I remember that night, for it was the last time that alcohol ever got the advantage of me, and may heaven grant that it may never find itself master of me again.

The next morning I called my family around me and told them that they had seen me intoxicated for the last time; that another drop of rum should never pass my lips. I was only answered by looks of sorrowfulness, and countenances that hardly expressed a gleam of hope, for how many times had I made the same promises and as often broken them? But a new power existed within me that gave me strength and resolution. I made enquiries for a Temperance organization, and soon after joined a Division of the Sons of Temperance in Frankfort. Linking myself with a temperance organization, I determined to do all I could for the great cause.

I now come upon a portion of my career where the sun of God's providence seemed to break out from the clouds which had covered it, and shine with a lustre hitherto unknown to

me. Though this period of my life was dark at first, obscured by the mists of a doubting and cowering mind, still it was but for a short time, for beyond the clouds the golden-beamed sun was shining, and soon by the power of the Almighty they were dispersed, and I stood forth once more in the broad daylight of God's creation, a man, and with a man's courage and moral strength. How long I had wandered in darkness amid the loathsome things of the night of depravity. Now with the garb of purity upon me, and hope stretching forth into the future with gladdening eyes, I could say with the immortal Milton, "Enlightener of my darkness, gracious things thou hast revealed." The greater the sinner the greater must be the reformation, and truly my reformation must have been great, not only for this reason, but from the infinite greatness of its cause, and but for the uplifting hand of God this radical change could never have been brought about in one so wrapped up in the love of the wine-cup as I. And yet, reader, as you trace my course from the beginning, what difference do you see between that and the course of any one who commences the use of ardent spirits when young? Nothing very remarkable till we come to the reform. *There is the difference.* While almost every one, once in that habit, passes rapidly down the tide of intemperance and sinks into a drunkard's grave and is forgotten, the Almighty gave me power to stop my headlong career and gain a safe footing. This power he holds forth and it may be grasped by any one who seeks it in the right way. God will not take the drunkard's excuse, that he has so long accustomed himself to intemperate drinking that he cannot leave it off.

Industry as surely follows morality as night follows day; and I had no sooner commenced a life of temperance than my work seemed lighter and was more faithfully attended to and better done.

My resolution to work for the cause of temperance grew upon me, and I made a beginning in the profession which I have since followed, in my own and adjoining towns. Success followed my efforts, and the more I have endeavored to convince others, the more decided has been my own conviction.

When I determined to use my efforts for the advancement of the temperance cause, it was with a full knowledge of the arduousness of the labor, for my varied experience of human life had not been in vain. I was perfectly aware, through my own experience, of the wilful perversity of the human heart. Though presented with all the truths imaginable to convince them of the evil of the prevalence of Alcohol, inebriates turn their backs and "choose darkness rather than light."

The evils of intemperance are wide-spread and numerous. Yearly it fills from thirty thousand to fifty thousand drunkards' graves, makes twenty thousand widows and one hundred thousand orphans, sends ten thousand children to the poor-house, causes fifteen hundred murders and five hundred suicides, and consigns fifteen thousand persons to the penitentiary. And yet in the face of all this testimony we hear men crying out against any one who speaks unfavorably of it. Although the organizations have done much, still more remains to be done, and the one who casts in his mite helps to turn the scales.

There is no element or combination of elements that ever has existed, or that does exist at the present time, that works so much destruction to the human family, as alcohol in its various forms. It binds and spreads corruption wherever it goes, and the man who has been accustomed to its use for years is not in the possession of one single principle or element, either mentally or physically, in its natural healthy, or unchanged state. It imparts its qualities to the blood—that

river of life, that wondrous epitome of all the fluids and solids of the human economy, and there live, revel and riot, throughout the whole existence of its victim. Would to Almighty God that it might be doomed to fall into disrepute; that it had lived out its long day of popular notoriety and was about to drop into the grave with the pall of oblivion upon it, and there remain throughout the illimitable period of time and eternity to give rise to other elements more compatible with the health, happiness, and prosperity of mankind. Intemperance, it gnaws the rest of all happiness, the gall of all that is sweet in life, the thorn of every rose of mortal bloom, the dark cloud of prosperity's noonday sky; the frost of the spring of man; the sigh of his loudest laugh, a clack stain on all forms of his loveliness; an offensive odor in his rarest spices of life; harsh disobedience of all his harmony, and a reservation of all his promises. O, demon of intemperance, with what an eye of desperate lust thou dost look from out thy empty vaults on all mankind. Thou wouldst be the terror and murderer of all. Yes, in thy dungeon-house where darkness, putridness, loathsomeness, fearful silence, and all of a deadly and dreadful name doth dwell, there sittest thou from age to age to drink the blood of mortals and crush their souls to destruction with thy hellish iron teeth. The blood of nations cannot slake thy parched throat for one moment even. No bribe can buy thy ever cruel rage for human piety for one moment. Yes, the infant's blood would well please thy taste while parents and friends weep, bereaved by them. Thy ever grinding jaws will devour them, too.—O, thou who dealest in naught but liquid poison to man! Thou most guilty, villainous, dishonest man: a wolf in the clothing of the innocent lamb; the vilest traitor to all manliness! Thou who hast purchased the soul of man with naught but rum! Thou their happiness, hopes, prosperity

promises, loveliness, hast bought with naught but the same ! O, thou in whom naught but satan dwells ; thou art worse on earth than damning hell ! No language can describe thee, save the tortured groans that fall from the mouths of torment. Would that thy career of hellish traffic on earth might ever end !

My life, since I commenced laboring in the temperance cause, may not be entirely unfamiliar to the public. My time for over seven years has been spent for the good of Temperance, through the organization of Good Templars, and if, during that time, I have saved any from the besetting evil which once surrounded me ; if but one single life has been reclaimed, and one single heart made glad by it, in it I have my own reward. I have reason to know that my labors have had a good degree of success. I have gathered and organized over two hundred Lodges, with members varying from fifty to one hundred, with thirty-five members on the start. I omitted to state in the proper place, that while living in Calais I was twice laid up with a broken leg, occasioned each time by drunkenness ; I also suffered severely from erysipelas in one of my arms, brought on by the same cause, my wife having to support the family by her own unaided labors. She has often said that those were happy times, as she then had me at home sober. How many wives there are who are ready to say that there is no misery and no misfortune like unto a drunken husband !

