

BLIGHTED PROMISE.

A TRUE STORY OF THE POWER OF DRINK.

If I were in search of a striking specimen of the product of the drink traffic, I should not, as a rule, go to one of the sleepy old cathedral towns of the west or south of England to find one. The whole aspect of the principal streets and centres of business there is one of quaker-like, quiet and respectability; and the very atmosphere is redolent of sobriety—one may almost say, of sanctity—scarcely, one would think, a fit work-shop for the noisy, strife-breeding demon of alcohol. And, yet, the following examples of the handiwork of the drink were to be met with in just such a place—in fact, within a stone's-throw of the cathedral itself.—Early in the present century, there stood, at the entrance to the city of Axchester, by one of the leading thoroughfares, one of those substantial, old-fashioned hosteleries, which were common enough in the days of the stage coach, but which are fast disappearing before the march of the railways. Such a place, in fact, as we often find portrayed in the pages of Charles Dickens. The proprietor, the hale and hearty descendant of a long line of Devon squires, who shall be known to us by the name Townley, was the father of a numerous family, among whom the subjects of the present sketch were respectively the first and fourth in point of age. The elder, a fine, dark, intellectual boy, thoughtful beyond his years, and of most determined will, was called John. His brother was four years his junior, and a boy of a diametrically different type, both as regards face and character, fair blue-eyed, frank and sparkling with fun and mischief, at once the idol and the plague of his long trail of sisters. His name was William. After some years spent as day scholars in the Grammar School of the city, John and William Townley were, through the influence of an uncle, apprenticed to a quaker firm in Bristol, named Johnson, who carried on a large business in the west counties in tea and chandlery. They continued with this firm for many years, and their soberness, honesty and industry won for them the respect and confidence of the old quaker gentlemen, who were the partners in the business. John developed into a sedate, almost stern young man, of strong religious views, and became early connected with a non-conformist church in which he was foremost as a Christian worker and Sunday School teacher. William, without having any decided views on the subject of religion, became a fine, open, merry-hearted young fellow, a prime favorite amongst his companions and the customers of the house, and a trust-worthy, promising young man in the estimation of his master.

When he was bordering on thirty years of age, John Townley returned to his native city, with the intention of pursuing a course of study, upon which he had already entered during his leisure hours, preparatory to offering himself as a candidate for the ministry of that branch of the church which he belonged. He devoted himself to his studies with all the ardour and intensity of his nature, and so great were his mental exertions that his mind threatened to give way under the strain. At the end of twelve months from the date of his leaving Bristol, he was prostrated by a severe attack of brain fever, from which he only rallied to find himself prohibited by the doctors who attended him from resuming his studies, at least for a length of time. Upon the full recovery of his strength and vigour, he was invited by his quaker friends to resume his former place in their business, and he returned to Bristol, where he was cordially welcomed by his brother William, who had, during his absence, been promoted to the post of traveller for the firm in some of the western counties. The brothers remained with Johnson & Co. for some years—every day increasing in their confidence and esteem—and when, at length, an opportunity occurred, the latter helped them to start in business on their own account. An old client of theirs, the proprietor of the "Five Grocers," an old established business in the city of Axchester, having died, the good will of the business was offered for sale by his heirs. It was purchased by the Johnsons for the brothers Townley on terms very

advantageous to the latter. They entered into the business in Fore street with every promise of success—a large connection already established for them, wealthy patrons ready to assist them in their enterprise, fine business qualities improved and perfected by a long and useful experience. Indeed they soon attained a foremost place amongst the merchants of their native city, and a reputation, throughout the whole neighbourhood, for honesty and business capacity. John, whose early religious ardour had cooled down to a respectable formalism, married a lady of high business qualities, and devoted all his energies and powers to his business. William, for whose attractive qualities and early marriage might have been predicted, became on the contrary a confirmed bachelor, ably seconded the efforts of John to make their business successful, and seemed, otherwise, engrossed with the single object of rendering the declining days of his widowed mother, to whom he was deeply attached, happy and comfortable. When, some years ago, the writer of the present sketch, visited Axchester, the aspect of prosperity and solidity presented by their central warehouse in Fore Street, and the air of comfort and affluence which surrounded their homes, led him to look upon them as two of the most enviable men conceivable. But, alas, the Drink Fiend had already, with insidious touch, laid his destroying hand upon the fair promise of their lives. John had become first a town councillor, then an alderman, and had been drawn into the society of a set of merchants and politicians, who were accustomed to meet nightly at their club at the County Hotel for the discussion of municipal politics, and the state of business, and for the enjoyment of social intercourse. Into this circle, he had been followed by his brother, and it was here that they both learned those habits of drinking which were to prove their ruin. From drinking at their club, amongst their boon companions, they descended, by degrees, to the introduction of drink into their homes and thence into the counting house. And now the busy, regular and sober habits which had contributed to the success of the brothers faded out of their lives. Their days were invaded by sly tipping, their nights were devoted to social drinking, even their Sabbaths were desecrated at their sea-side residence, at Framshall, by drunken dissipation. Years passed away. The habits they had formed became chains which they could not break, their business went gradually to decay and ruin. At last came the end, John died, a confirmed drunkard, and was laid in an unhonored grave, whither his wife had preceded him some years before. The writer was surprised, some years ago, to receive the following intelligence, regarding the surviving brother from a gentleman at Axchester. "William Townley, lately of the firm of the 'Five Grocers' was rescued from the poor house by the present owner of the business, who, out of compassion for his former master, now a worn-out, drink-ridden, old man, gave him the post of messenger and light-porter in the prosperous establishment which had once been his own."

Truly there is hardly a house "where there is not one dead." There is small need to paint the moral of the foregoing sketch. It is that of the old, old story. The structure, which long years of industry, sobriety, and intelligence had erected with much pains, is invaded by the demon of drink, spoiled and demolished, bringing its builders among its ruins. The sight incites the spectators to renewed efforts in their warfare against the enemy of our people.

Contributed by Donald Browne, D G W P, Daystar Division, S. of T., Bonne Bay, Newfoundland. March 29th, 1889.]

New York Press: "See these young men from eighteen to twenty-six years of age. What are they doing? Smoking, drinking, smoking, drinking. What do they talk of? Tobacco, wine, whisky, ballet girls, races, ball matches, stocks. Do you ever hear them discuss matters of any gravity whatever? Do they know anything beyond the flippancies that float with the current to-day? They are the very scum upon the water of life."

Anti-Prohibition Devices.

There are many ingenious devices to evade the prohibitory liquor laws. One of these in Iowa, near Mount Pleasant, was the erection of a shanty, with a board partition, making therein one large room and one smaller one on the other side. A barrel was set in the partition and the customer could deposit his money and get his drinks without seeing the man in the other room. This made it possible for the customer to swear that he did not see the liquor-seller and did not know who he was. A telegram of the 9th ult. mentions that, under the ruling of Judge Travers, the proprietor of this shanty is now in jail serving a sentence of four months. He is probably persuaded that prohibition really does prohibit!

Never, No Never.

Two more proofs of the failure of Prohibition are just at hand. 1. The great brewery at Leavenworth, Kansas, which has hitherto been running in defiance of the law was compelled to close amidst the rejoicing of the people. 2. Saloon-riden Fort Dodge, Iowa, rose up in her majesty, and elected, after "the most hotly-contested election ever held there," an anti-saloon mayor, and "the liquor-seller acknowledge the futility of further resistance." Now, both of these were places where the Beerites and the Ginities, and the Whiskytites, and all the other tribes of the Gittights boasted that Prohibition could never be enforced—never!—Cincinnati Christian Standard.

The white ribbon badge is no respecter of race or color. A branch of the W. C. T. U., composed entirely of Mexican women, has been organized at Sacono, New Mexico. This is supposed to be the first organization of the kind ever formed among the people.

Miss Kate Field advocates the use of California wine, but Mr. Charles A. Wetmore, who was formerly at the head of the Viticulture Commission of California, and is therefore eminently qualified to judge, stakes his opinion that not more than one gallon of wine or whisky out of a hundred in Sacramento or any other city is pure, and that retailers keep the poorest wines made, "which are the vilest decoctions imaginable."

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Place of Meeting, Divisions, Numbers
Night of Meeting, and name of
Deputies.

St. Stephen; Howard, 1; Friday; S. Webber; Milltown, St. Stephen; Wilberforce, 3; Monday; H. McAllister.
Market Building, St. John; Gurney, 5; Thursday; David Bradley, Jr.
Orange Hall, Portland; Portland, 7; Monday; A. Y. Paterson.
Market Building, St. John; Albion, 14; Wednesday; E. A. Everett.
Gagetown; Queens, 21; Saturday; H. J. DeVeber.
Chatham; Northumberland, 37; Friday; G. Stothart.
St. John; Mariners and Mechanics, 38; Tuesday; John Kinney.
Hillsboro, Albert Co.; Albert, 39; Wednesday; John I. Steeves.
Sackville, West Co.; Sackville, 40; Tuesday; J. C. Harper.
Richibucto, Kent Co.; Richibucto, 42; Wednesday; Robert N. Beers.
Newcastle; Newcastle, 45; Thursday; Jas. Falconer.
Point de Bute, West Co. Westmorland, 50; Thursday; Jas. W. Colpitts.
Hopewell Hill, Albert Co.; Golden Rule, 51; Tuesday; L. R. Moore.
enfield, Charlotte Co.; Lafeguard, 58; Saturday; H. C. Trynor.
Cambridge, Queen's Co.; Johnston, 62; Saturday; George S. Wilson.
Dalhousie; Dalhousie, 64; Monday; G. Haddow.
Baie Verte; Baie Verte, 65; Wednesday; R. Goodwin.
Dover, West Co.; ver, 70; Saturday; Alfred E. Steeves.
Carleton; St. John; Granite Rock, 77; Tuesday; John C. Thomas.
Derby, North Co.; Nelson, Monday; J. Betts 99.
Doughlastown, North Co.; Caledonia, 126; Tuesday; J. Henderson.
Collins Corner, Kings Co.; Collins, 129; Thursday; Jacob L. Keirstead.
Upper Gagetown, Queens Co.; Oxford, 130; Saturday; A. E. Crothers.
Benton, Carleton Co.; Garibaldi, 151; A. F. Campbell.
St. Martins St. John Co.; St. Martins, 164; Tuesday; Frank L. Mosher.
Moncton; Moncton, 183; Monday; F. W. Steeves.
Douglas, York Co.; Dunphy's, W. O. Farmers 190; Saturday; Arthur W. Ross.
Salisbury, West Co.; Crystal Stream, 191; Monday; S. A. Hoistead.
South Bay, St. John Co.; Lime Rock, 267; Monday; Wm. Roxborough.
Milford, St. John Co.; Everett, 238; Tuesday; Geo. H. Waring.
McKenzie; Intercolonial, 243; Friday; Miss Vena Fawcett.

Victoria Mills, West Co.; Victoria, 245; Thursday; A. J. Main.
Baillie, St. James, Char. Co.; Baillie, 248; Wednesday; Fred H. Mann.
Weldford, Kent Co.; Harcourt, 249; Saturday; H. Wadden.
Portland; Valley, 250; Tuesday; J. Fowler.
Barnet Ridge, King's Co.; Havelock, 251; Friday; E. Keith.
Petitcodiac, West Co.; Petitcodiac, 252; Tuesday; D. A. Jonah.
Lewis Mountain, West Co.; Sunnyside, 253; Saturday; John Lounsbury.
Millstream, Kings Co. Britannia, 255; Saturday; C. W. Weyman.
Little Ridge, Char. Co.; Spreading Oak, 256; Tuesday; A. F. Matheson.
Fredericton; Lanedowne, 257; Thursday; H. H. Pitts.
River Charles, Rest. Co.; Charles, 259; Thursday; J. H. Galbraith.
teves' Mountain, West Co.; Mountain Rose, 260; Saturday; R. Lutz, Jr.
Fam'ron, King's Co.; Spring, 262; Monday; G. Barnes.
Pomroy Ridge, Char. Co.; Mayflower, 263; Thursday; W. Moulton.
Scotch Ridge, Char. Co.; Iona, 264; Wednesday; D. M. Sinclair.
Oak Hill, Char. Co.; Oak, 265; Thursday; Harry E. Grimmer.
Tower Hill, Char. Co.; Wills, 266; Saturday; S. S. Smith.
2d Falls, St. George, Char. Co.; Stewart, 269; Saturday; A. Sherwood.
St. George, Char. Co.; Red Granite, 270; Saturday; Chas. Johnson.
Penobscus, King's Co.; Cardwell, 271; Wednesday; Oscar Stevens.
Hampton Village, King's Co.; Hampton, 273; Tuesday; Chas. Frost.
St. John, 102 King Street; Gordon Division No. 275; Monday; Robert Maxwell.
Eagle Settlement West'd Co.; Twilight, 267; Tuesday; G. A. Taylor.
Salisbury, Westmorland Co.; Middleton, 277; Friday; Jas. Henry.
Healthland, Charlotte Co.; Rising Sun, 276; Tuesday; Julius Powers.
Goshen Corner, Albert Co.; Star of Hope, 278; Saturday; H. D. Stevens.
St. Mary's Kent Co.; Rosefield, 280; Saturday; W. Vincent.
Elgin, Albe Co.; Elgin, 281; Saturday; W. P. Robinson.
Whites Cove, Grand Lake; Grand Lake, 283; Friday; H. E. White.
Stonehaven, Gloucester Co.; Gloucester Division 284; Tuesday; N. R. Ritchie.
Lewisville, Moncton; Lewisville, 285; Tuesday; A. McN. Russell.
Port Elgin, West Co.; Fort Moncton, 286; Tuesday; C. H. Goodwin.
Centreville, Kings Co.; Centreville, 287; Saturday; C. R. Folkins.
Waterford, K. C.; Essex Division 288; Saturday; E. M. Flewelling.
Dube, Carleton Co.; Centenary, 289; Thursday; Wm. V. Benn.
Waterville, Carleton Co.; Waterville, 293; Saturday; J. T. Fletcher.
Bath Carleton Co.; Ray of Hope, 294; Friday; W. D. Keith.
Lower Coverdale, Albert Co.; Coverdale, 295; Tuesday; F. A. Steeves.
Canterbury, York Co.; Dunferm, 296; Saturday; John W. Scott.
River Louison, Restigouche Co.; Louison, 297; Friday; Donald Stewart.
Kirkland, Carleton Co.; Monument, 298; Thursday; John Lyons, Deputy.
Woodstock, Carleton Co.; Campbell, 299; Friday; S. McLeod.
Campbellton, Restigouche Co.; Campbellton, 300; Monday; Jas. W. Patterson.
Dundee, Restigouche Co.; Dundee, 302; Tuesday; Jas. Malcolm.
Morcambe, P. O. Kings Co.; Rising Star, 303; Wednesday; Martin Freeze.
Scotch Settlement, Westmorland Co.; McCarthy 304; Wednesday; David H. Murray.
Upper Millstream, Kings Co.; Millstream, 305; Monday; Zebulon Gaunce.
Gibson, York Co.; Gibson, 306; Friday; J. H. Hamilton.
Case Settlement, Kings Co.; Snowflake, 307; Monday; C. E. Black.
Portland, N. B.; Silver, 308; Friday; Rev. J. Spencer.
Old Ridge, Char. Co.; Brunswick Division, No 309; Monday; R. W. Dinsmore.
Waterside, Parish of Harvey, Albert Co. Gladstone No. 311; Friday; Rev. S. O. Moore.
Kingsclear, York Co.; Kingsclear, 315; Wednesday; Isaac Kilburn, Deputy.
Buctouche, Kent Co.; Buctouche, 316; Tuesday; Wm. Wry.
Mount Middleton, Kings Co.; Mount Middleton, 318; Friday; Joseph Chapman.
McKenzie Corner, Carleton Co.; McKenzie Corner Division 319 Friday; Jas. Forest.
Stylesville, Westmorland Co.; Mapleville, 320; Saturday; John Crandall.
Bayfield, Westmorland Co.; Bayfield, 321; Monday; A. W. Bent.
Clark's Corner, Queens Co.; Clark's Corner, 325; Thursday; Isaac H. Carle.
Fredericton, No. 2 Gordon, No. 326; Wednesday; Sergt. Major McKenzie.
Smith's Corner, Walker's W. O., Kent Co. Olive Branch 327 Saturday, Ephraim Wheten.
Berry Mills West Co. Millville, 328, Monday; John T. Prince.
Blackville, Northumberland Co.; Blackville, 329; Wednesday; Otto Hilderbrand.
Black Brook, North Co.; Silver Stream, 330; Wednesday; Wm. Tait.
Tattagouche, Gloucester Co.; Forest Home, 331; Thursday; Richard Bell.
Bathurst, Gloucester Co.; Ever Onward, 332; Monday, Dr. Wm. P. Bishop.
Dalhousie Junction, Restigouche Co., Maple Green; 333; Wednesday, Wm. Jamison.
Little River, Buctouche, Kent Co. Forest View No. Co 334; Monday, Chas. Ward.
Upper Woodstock, Jubilee 335, Wednesday, John Burpee.
Napan, North Co., Napan, No. 336 Thursday Alex Dickson.
Presque Isle, Connell P. O. Carleton Co.; Dawn of Hope No. 337 Tuesday; John N. Perry.
Bloomfield Corner, Carleton Co.; Unity No 338 Saturday, T. D. Stokoe.
Mapleton, Albert Co., Mapleton, No 339, Tuesday. Alcott W. Stiles.
Boiestown, North Co. Boiestown, No. 341, Wednesday; Rev Thos. Allen.
Little River, Albert Co.; Princes Louise, No 342; Saturday; Sanford Parkin.
Moncton, Bulmer, No. 343, Saturday; James M. Murray, deputy.
Caraquet, Gloucester Co., Caraquet, No. 344; Saturday, J. W. Young.
Ludlow, Northumberland Co., Pine Grove, No 345, Thursday, Frederick Price.
St. John, Excelsior, No. 346, Friday, Robert Wills.
Bamford Settlement, North Co., Blissfield, N. 347, Saturday, David Bamford, Deputy.
Carleton, St. John, Tilley, No. 348, Monday; Herbert B. Belyea.
Marysville, York Co., Marysville, No. 349; Friday, A. S. Morrissey.
Sunnies Brea, West Co., Fairview, No 350, Monday, A. R. Blake.
Springfield (White's Corner) King's Co, Sun beam, No. 351, Tuesday, Oscar Davis.
River View, Albert Co., River View No. 352, Monday, Azor Jonah.
St. John, St. George Division, No. 353, Wednesday, James Kelly.
Anagnese Ridge, King's Co.; Safe Refuge, No 354, Tuesday, Nehemiah Graves.
Wesford, Queens Co., Wesford, No 355, Friday, Wm. Howe.
Tracadie, Gloucester Co., Tracadie, No. 356; Saturday, Alex Fleet.
Youghall, Gloucester Co., Seaside, No 357; Tuesday, Richard Willis.
St. Andrews, C. Co., St. Andrews, 358, Monday; J. M. Hanson.
Whitneyville, North Co., Whitneyville, 359; Monday, Benj. Forsyth.