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and bloated faces of the crowd before him. "Why what ails ye, Sam!" inquired Tall Chicago, as they all stood there. "I've come to bid you good-bye, boys!" he replied, removing his hat and drawing a clean handkerchief from his pocket. "What! Hev ye turned preacher?" they shouted in chorus. "Boys, ye know I can lick any two of ye, but I hain't on the fight any more, and I've put down the last drop of whiskey which is ever to go into my mouth! I've switched off. I've taken an oath. I'm going to be decent."

"Sam, be ye crazy?" asked Port Haron Bill, coming nearer to him. "I've come down here to tell you all about it," answered Sam. "Move the chairs back a little and give me room. Ye know I've been rough, and more too. I've been a drinker, a fighter, a gambler, and a loafer. I can't look back and remember when I earned an honest dollar. Ye all know this, boys, but ye didn't know I had an old mother."

The faces of the crowd expressed amazement. "I never mentioned it to any of ye, for I was neglecting her," he went on. "She was a poor old woman living up here in the alley, and if the neighbors hadn't helped her to fuel and food she'd have been found dead long ago. I never helped her to a cent—didn't see her for weeks and weeks, and I used to feel mean about it. Well, she's dead—buried yesterday. I was up there afore she died. She sent for me by Pete, and when I got there I seen it was all over with her."

"Did she say anything?" asked one of the boys, as Sam hesitated. "That's what ails me now," he went on. "When I went in, she reached out her hand to me, and says she: 'Samuel, I am going to die, and I know'd you'd want to see me afore I passed away, I sat down feeling queer-like. She didn't go on and say as how I was a loafer, and had neglected her, and all that, but says she: 'Samuel, you'll be all alone when I am gone. I've tried to be a good mother to you, and have prayed for you hundreds o' nights, and cried about you until my old heart was sore!' Some of the neighbors had dropped in, and the women were crying, and I tell you I felt weak."

He paused for a moment and then continued: "And the old woman said, she'd like to kiss me afore death came, and that broke me right down. She kept hold of my hand, and by and by she whispered: 'Samuel, you are throwing your life away. You have got it in you to be a man, if you'll only make up your mind. I hate to die and feel that my only son and the last of our family may go to the gallows. If I had your promise that you'd turn over a new leaf, and try and be good, it seems as if I'd die easier. Won't you promise me, my

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"For six months I have not stepped into a house where there are ladies, and I miss their society." And the Christian women about him had forgotten that the college boy needed just the refinement and tenderness which his own home had furnished.—*Congregationalist.*

## Smiles

A saloon-keeper, who, having started business in a place where trunks had been made, asked a friend what he had better do with the old sign, a Trunk Factory. "Oh," said the friend, "just change the 'T' to 'D' and it will suit you exactly."

Dr. Gifford, of Boston, recently said in address: "That the more brains a man has, the less liquor he can stand, and the less brains the more alcohol he can bear." It is nothing to boast of, he said, to be able to drink much without being mentally affected, but such is rather an argument in favor of Darwinism than of humanity.

An eminent pianist, having suffered much from the unexpressible convulsions of drawing-room audiences, advised, the other day, a means of giving a little lesson to the town. He arranged with his victim his violoncello, and the rest that the music should come to a sudden stop in the middle of the loudest passage of the piece, at a given signal from him. It was done. The bawling and shouting voices were in the twinkling of an eye, hushed, and they were it were, upon a shore of silence. "By your clear and distinct above them all, arose from the foremost seats the voice of a lady; and these words were ringing upon the startled air, "We always fry ours in laid."

Rev. Dr. Woods of Andover was once giving his class some instruction about preaching in such a manner to gain attention and applause. "Young gentlemen," said he, "it's all contained in a nut-shell. When you go to preach in the city, take your best coat; but when you go to preach in the country, take your best sermon."

AN IRISH PRIEST was addressing his flock on the dangers of intemperance, and concluded his harangue with these words: "Drink, my children, makes you beat your wives, starge your amppes, and shoot your audlords—ay, and miss them too!"

WHY IT DIDN'T HIT HIS HEART: Old gentleman (military looking man, guest of the Squire, conversing with Knart looking rustic)—"Wounded in the Crimea were you? Badly?" Rustic—"The bullet struck me in the chest, here, surr, an' came out at me back!" Old gentleman—"Come, come, Pat, that won't do! Why, it would have gone right through your heart, man!" Rustic—"Och, faix, me heart was in me mouth at the thome, surr!"

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