

drink, supplying her with it, so that they might go to bed. Another told me this was her second visit. She had been out two months, visiting her own and her husband's friends, and for a season 'she held fast her integrity.' One of those dogged irrepresibles in female form insisted on her 'just tasting her wine that was of some famous vintage, and so recommended 'by the faculty,' when, like the tame fox which licked a few drops of blood, its savage nature awoke with awful power. Generally speaking, they were all very pleasant and agreeable. Their conversational powers reminded me of an incident that happened in Scotland, between two of my schoolfellows, in after days:—'Man, Doctor, what a lot of books you've got!' 'Would you like me to lend you one?' 'Yes, and much obliged.' Johnson's Dictionary was handed to him, and, when returned, he said he 'found it very entertaining, but unco' little on one subject!' Of course, there were many things told that it would be very imprudent to repeat. This establishment will in nowise be benefited by the Act. The proprietor will not take out the license; her system is one month's notice. Some few walk quietly in of their own accord. One lady, after a year's sojourn, left; not a month elapsed till in she coolly walked. 'Now, don't be alarmed, I am all right; but I did not feel at all safe, and have come back to make myself secure under your roof.' After a second year she left, and whilst I was there a letter came from her expressive of such delight at being so long free from any temptation, and so overflowing with grateful thanks and pleasant recollections, that it did one good to hear of her complete restoration, and her deep sense of obligation for the great interest taken in her. Whatever morbid ideas some patients may have as to their seclusion before their admission are soon dispelled, and however ill on their arrival, they are not long in finding their way downstairs. The inmates can go out and in their own rooms, the dining and drawing rooms, or roam in the grounds at their own sweet will. They can write to their friends when and what they like; married ones receive visits from their husbands. The ladies can go to church, opera, theatre, or concert; have a walk or drive into town or country; but outside the grounds a *guide* invariably accompanies them. In fine, there is not any appearance of restraint, neither locks nor bolts to bar their exit. There are two London daily papers, several serials, weeklies, and monthlies, besides a well-stocked library. Whilst I was there a letter of anxious inquiry came from a petty officer on board one of our seagoing steamships, so full of love and sorrow, redolent of the most earnest solicitude for the reformation of his drunken wife. I never thought a man's affection could have survived all the

misery and total shipwreck of his once happy home, as well as the loss of all he had, save his clothes and wages. He pleaded hard for her admission, and if she could not be received, to mention some safe refuge where she would be secure when he was far from her, caring less for the perils of the deep than for the dangers drink exposed the poor wretch he still loved with all her faults. I here quote a picture of such a case by a recent writer:—

"Wasted in form, in face, in mind,
She wanders downward to the grave;
To every worthy impulse blind;
Repulsing every hand to save.

"Yet many such wrecks of humanity have been saved at Tower House.

"Before concluding, allow me to express my unfeigned regret that the clause empowering the relatives of the drunkard, under certain conditions, to confine him or her, as the case might be, was eliminated from the present Act, for he who provides not for his own family, as good old Paul said, 'has denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.' People in towns sometimes find it hard to get two magistrates before whom the victim must (as the law is at present) make his declaration, and thus expose his frailty; but in Newbiggin and in Alwick, the county town of Northumberland, we have to travel six miles before we can find one, and on one occasion I drove about for ten hours before I got one. Why should a clergyman's certificate not answer the same purpose as that of a Justice of the Peace? All my life long—and I am now sixty-three years of age—I can only remember four persons willing to undergo restraint, and one individual would have gone into a lunatic asylum, but the proprietor could not receive him. Once on a time dangerous inebriates could be sent there until the expiration of three months. But three months, or six, are too few for the periodical drinker; the sot, or constant tippler, might do with six months; but if he were under restraint for twelve he is less liable to feel the want of liquor, and not so easily gulled into the belief that his is one of those temperaments that cannot endure total abstinence. The fact is, these men *like it, and won't do without it*; and, as far as I have seen, are really not so capable of continuous work with as without it.

"And now, in conclusion, if what I have so imperfectly advanced will induce you to use your influence to obtain compulsory education for the drunkard in the principles and practice of total abstinence—which is as much required as the Education Act was for the juveniles—by the establishment of county or national retreats, and thus terminate our present sham legislation, I shall not have written in vain."

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