

THE AGITATOR.

Subscription 50 cents per Year.

"Be sure You are right, then go ahead."

Advertising Rates on Application.

Vol. 1.

CLARENDON, DONLEY COUNTY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 21, 1899.

No. 45.

OUR WORST ENEMY.

WEIGHTY EVIDENCE.

Drunkenness Condemned by Thinkers and Statesmen.

Drink is the mother of want and the nurse of crime.—Brougham.

Drink is a poison in politics as well as in society.—Harcourt.

It is impossible to relieve poverty until we get rid of the curse of drink.—Earl of Shaftesbury.

The great plague of drunkenness is a national curse, calamity and scandal. With a sober population, not wasting its earnings, we can obtain the revenue.—W. E. Gladstone.

I have generally found the higher the wages the worse the workmen. They only spend their money in the beer shops. They (the beer shops) are the curse of the country.—Beaconsfield.

Drunkenness is not only the cause of crime, but it is crime, and if any encourage drunkenness for the sake of the profit derived they are guilty of a form of moral assassination as criminal as any that has ever been practiced by the bravos of any country or of any age.—John Ruskin.

Perhaps the day may come when the morality of the nation will be too strong for the publicans, but till then we must suffer the degradation that now discredits us. Among the evil institutions that threaten the integrity and safety of a state the liquor traffic stands pre-eminent. If for ten years England could get rid of drink, she would in that time become such a paradise as men would hardly recognize.—John Bright.

If I had an enchanter's wand and could destroy the desire for strong drink in the people of England, we should see our taxes reduced by millions sterling. We should see our jails and workhouses empty. We should see more lives saved in 12 months than are consumed in a century of bitter and savage war.—Chamberlain.

ALCOHOLIC HEREDITY.

Weak Body Is What the Drunkard Transmits to His Children.

Professor Sims Woodhead, speaking the other day before the Society For the Study of Inebriety in England, came to these conclusions: He held most strongly that a direct transmission of the taste for alcohol never occurred. Of course he accepted very fully the fact that certain nervous diseases and degenerations involving certain altered and weakened inhibitory powers are transmitted from generation to generation. These, however, did not always assume the same form, the manifestation of the effect often taking on very different characters in different generations.

But, whatever character they assumed, the result as regards alcohol was inevitably the same, and until far more evidence was brought forward than had yet been presented he should strongly maintain that what was so often spoken of as an inherited taste for alcohol was an inherited weakness and lessened self restraint affecting many other things besides drink and that a direct transmission of the taste for alcohol from parents to children in a constitution otherwise healthy did not occur. As with tuberculosis, the disease was not transmitted, but only the weakly and unbalanced condition of the tissues.—Hospital of London.

we wonder how many long years it yet shall be before this earth shall accept the savior.

If we could close the saloons from now until the Xmas holidays are over, how many lives would be saved? Oh, how many homes will be left in mourning, in heart-broken tears, in the next ten days. The direct result of open saloons. The song of the Angels will never be fulfilled until the saloons are all closed, and they will be some day.

Clarendon has had a fine opportunity of late to see who stands for right and the sanctity of home and who is on the other side.

Christmas.

Before another issue of this paper Christmas will have come and gone so we shall try to say a few words to impress upon our readers the true observance of this day. While we are nowhere commanded to observe this day yet we think it proper that every christian heart should join with the angels in praising God upon this day. Many make this a day of dissipation. We have known men to stay sober all the year and get drunk on Christmas. Many girls seem to forget their church vows and solemn obligations on Christmas and turn to the world and the dance and sinful amusements. The papers are filled with all kinds of crime committed on this day, by persons who are under the influence of whiskey. While thousands and tens of thousands of dollars are foolishly wasted for things that are worthless. We don't mean by this to discard the giving of presents. No indeed we believe every child's heart should be made to rejoice upon this occasion. We are not one of those who believe it to be a sin to fill up the little stockings as they hang by the fire side although the welcomed Santa Clause may get the credit. This is the day on which God made a

gift of his son to the world and it was properly celebrated for the wise men upon this memorable morning gave gold, frankincense and myrrh.

If the money foolishly spent on this day was given to the church of Christ it would hasten the gospel to the ends of the earth in the next ten years. If this day was properly kept it would add millions to the cause of Christ. We should give to the poor upon this occasion there are homes in every town where Christmas has no meaning; children that get no toys. Let us as we eat our Christmas dinners and our children enjoy their gifts let us try to gladden some lonely home, some poor child's heart. Surely he that was born into this world so poor he had not where to lay his head will not be un-mindful of our deeds. Instead of receiving we should be giving and so teach our children to give something upon this occasion, and you will better enjoy the day. It should be a day of prayer and if observed in this way the church instead of drifting away from Christ would be closer drawn to him.

Let us be sensible in the observance of this day. Let us realize for what purpose we are rejoicing. Have we accepted the gift of God in Christ our savior? If not, then instead of rejoicing we should be on our knees repenting. Let me say to you, many who fail this Christmas morning will be moulding in the cold damp clay before another shall dawn. With this solemn fact before you if, you are a Christian I hale you happy and bid you a merry Christmas, put if you are not I beg you to decide the question now.

Special Offer.

Three hundred and fifty pairs of pants for men and boys.

Here are the prices the prices that will take them:

\$4.00 values will go for \$2.90.
Pants worth \$3.50 now \$2.65.
\$3 quality to close out at \$2.20.
\$2.50 pants will sell at \$1.90.
\$1.45 will take any \$2.00 pants.
\$1.15 takes choice \$1.50 values.
90cts. for the \$1.25 ones. Now is the time to buy your pants.

Still Loaded.

We anticipated the recent advance in the price of Underwear and Trunks by buying heavily before the rise, and now we must get rid of them.

Here are the Underwear Prices.

\$1.25 values for \$1.00.
worth \$1.00 now 80cts.
75ct. qualities are 60cts.
50ct grade now 85 cts.

Trunks.

worth \$5.00 for \$3.90.
\$4.00 vaues \$3.20.
3.50 quality 2.65.
3.00 grade for 2.35.
2.50 ones at 1.90.
1.65 takas the 2.00 size.

The Shoe stock

Our shoe stock is still almost complete in style and sizes, though we have sold stacks of them.

OUR CLOSING OUT PRICES

save you from 15 to 30 per cent on shoes.

LOOK AT OUR DISPLAY

of Xmas goods. All at CLOSING OUT PRICES.

CALDWELL & CO.

Our Trial Over.

For some time our friends and readers have understood that there was some sort of a case against us, but many did not understand the nature of the case and some thought we were in very serious trouble, but now as it is over and we have been vindicated before the court and the eyes of the people we will give a short explanation. We could not do this before for fear of disqualifying the jurors as most every man in the county takes the Agitator. Several weeks ago the priest had us indicted for libel and we had him indicted, charged with living in adultery both cases were called Monday, Dec. 4th and Judge White wisely appointed three good, discreet men as a jury commission to select 24 names from 75, as a jury and set the trial for Dec. 11th. The trial was in the District court room and the crowd was not lacking. The trial was quite sensational from beginning to end. All will agree that Judge White gave a fair and impartial ruling. Both priest and preacher were ably represented by counsel.

Mr. W. B. Ware assisted the county attorney in the prosecution of the priest while Mr. A. Cole assisted the county attorney in the prosecution of the preacher. The preacher was defended by W. B. Ware of Clarendon and R. W. Hall of Vernon. We shall not give the argument here as it is not necessary but it is sufficient to say it was conclusive and all who heard it are of the opinion that the jury was very lenient toward the Reverend gentleman. His main argument was that it was customary for the priests to keep women for housekeepers but we feel this fine and cost will go a long ways towards doing away with all such flagrant customs.

We noticed one thing, that many still more indecorous behavior of those who had been crying out for the punishment of the priest.

THE VERDICT OF THE JURY,

failed to show up at the trial. The verdict of the jury has pronounced us quietus on things and we trust will be a long time before we want any hauling of called upon to again take a kind done call tive part in a case of this me. Prices We wish to thank the reasonable.

stood by us in this try

We also thank Messrs

Hall for so ably

Mr. Ware is a

and Mr. Hall h

utation.

Paid De

st from the mills the largest and cheapest stock of B. D. Blackound in Clarendon. Our prices on both Texas in two hit the times. Give us a chance at your work to doctors to get our prices on wall paper before you buy his leg. The off but he can Bucklin's A te d cure tor old by H. L.

PATTON & STOWERS, Clarendon, Texas.

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Chu DEALER IN

and Fancy Groceries.

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on College

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ry Institution,

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partments of a high grade faculty of eight teachers.

Send for Catalogue and full information.

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in Coal and Wood

NDON, TEXAS.

The Agitator.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY.

J. R. HENSON, Editor.
A. M. BEVILLE, Local Editor.
H. B. MARTIN, Business Mgr.

Subscription 50 cts. per Yr. in advance.

Entered at the post office at Clarendon, Texas as Second-class mail matter.

We have as little use for a man or woman that will uphold another in ludeness and crime as we have for the one committing the same.

The liar's journal (Hall County Herald failed to show up this week. we have not heard but we suppose the saloons got theirs all right.

Many are so poor that no present will come to them—no change in the coarse fare of every day life. Surely they have a part in the present God made to the world 1899 years ago. He too, was so poor he had not where to lay his aching head. He was a man of poverty. Do we with gladness accept the gift of God?

We trust all papers that made mention of our being indicted for libel by the Catholic priest will do us the fairness to state the result of the trial and our acquittal. To do otherwise would be to injure us as our paper does not reach all your readers.

The Agitator is a morning paper and a fellow Bill's reverend, and a jovial, "In with you!" expecting to behold the person of some companion in his drunken revels, but to his surprise there appeared in the doorway a young man, neatly clothed, clean shaven, clear eyed.

"Good morning, Mr. Goodman," said Mr. Wallis. "I see you do not remember me. I am Mark Wallis. I lectured last night at the church. I dropped in this morning to tell you how very glad I was to see you sign the total abstinence pledge last night. I—"

"Hang it all, what do you mean?" demanded Goodfellow Bill uneasily. "I sign a pledge? You're a little mistaken, I should think. When I do"—and Goodfellow Bill uttered a terrible oath—"just let me know. You've mistaken your goose, that's all."

"Mr. Goodman," began Mark, but again Goodfellow Bill thundered:

"Hang you! I am a man of my word. Any of the fellows will tell you that. I never signed a pledge. They tried some such game on me when I was a little shaver, but I fooled them. Show me my name hitched on to any pledge, and I'll keep it."

Now, here was a point gained, and Mark was quick to grasp it. He drew from his pocket a slip of paper with "Will Goodman" written in sprawling characters below the pledge.

Goodfellow Bill took the paper and read it through once, twice, then again. He examined the signature carefully. There could be no mistake; it was his own name in his own peculiar handwriting.

"When did I do that?" he asked in a quieter tone.

"Last night at the church," was the answer.

Then Goodfellow Bill, the drunkard, the tough, he who had faced death many times and never flinched, who had deluded himself into the belief that he had drowned memory in strong drink, laid his head upon the table and cried.

Mark Wallis, one hand on Goodfellow Bill's shoulder, pitied and prayed for him as only one who has been weak and become strong can pity and pray for one who has been strong and become weak.

What a pitiful yet familiar story it was that Goodfellow Bill told. It was the old story of a mother's counsel rejected, her love spurned and of far wanderings from the straight and narrow way.

"For five years," said Goodfellow Bill, "I've traveled about drinking and gambling, wanting many times to quit it all and go back to the old home and a better life, yet always putting it off some other time. In all those years no one has ever spoken to me as you have today. No one has seemed to care whether I sunk or swum."

All the bright morning hours the two men sat and talked, heart meeting heart, for one had been where the other



CHASE & SANBORN, Importers, Boston.
What did you have for breakfast?
Did you have that all-important article—A GOOD cup of coffee; or was it weak and muddy; or if strong, Did it fail to have that flavor so essential to please the palate?
Do you know that
CHASE & SANBORN'S Coffees
have the Strength and Flavor so necessary to the correct article?
Not put up in paper packages and stored in ware houses for weeks, But Fresh from the Roasters. We are sole Agents.
JOHN T. SIMS.

Congratulation.
Clarendon, Texas,
Dec. 18, 1899.

Editor Agitator:

I wish to congratulate you, for the victory you have won. Your worst enemies can't help but admire you, for your courage, and consistency. You haven't gone into the history of the past, and raked up the horrors of the past, and flaunted them in the faces of those living in the present, who are in no way responsible for the past. Neither have you gone to foreign lands, or distant states of affairs, to find examples of immorality, and then make pretensions to make the world pure, but you have done your duty, as a citizen of this country, and you have done it in a noble and God-fearing way. At least \$200 worth of land, and good stock and equipment, and a good 3-roomed shed-room; best mill, and a good 2-story barn and a couple cow-sheds, lots of poultry yard enclosed. Neither houses, runways, etc. what is and best bearing orchard, states, ty, consisting of plums, grapes, netarines, apris to God \$300 worth of fruit has been raised in one year. The property goes with the land, if we and harness, 1 buggy, 2 corn-turning plow, 2 sweeps, 1 el, 1 garden plow, 1 post-horn pitchfork, 1 wire-stretch, 2 garden hoes, 4 pony hoes, 12 tons of Kafir corn, 10 shot-saddles, 2 riding bridles, when it The entire outfit will take For further particulars will take

It of the
A Keen, C) and won,
—he honor.

Your best feelings, great deal largely upon the taking any your Stomach King's New Life test came, strength, a keen and, and de-ambition. A 2ich was not you feel like a H. D Ramsey than running

The editor man in town get \$25 to uation better Christmas if ntly all who of those pre because he cess instead of

Tell the H w discard all perance lec ok to you as to get his v can confide, to y. May God

A. J. ive success to Insurance r of a higher Fire, ality, in our Accid, ality, in our Cont, prayer of every paper ate. y

Yours,
OBSERVER.

W. R. McWilliams,
Contractor for Brick and Stone Work,
House Raising and Moving.

J. S. MORRIS,
Division Surgeon, F.W. & D.C. Ry.
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CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER.
Plans and specifications Free on application.
Estimates cheerfully furnished on all kinds of repair work.
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C. H. NELSON,
DENTIST,
CLARENDON, - - TEXAS.

Dr. S. J. WHITE,
Physician & Surgeon.
Graduate Tulane University. Post graduate New Orleans Polyclinic.

DR. BOYNTON'S.
office adjoins the Banner office, where he may be found day or night.

Clarendon College
AND
UNIVERSITY TRAINING SCHOOL
MUSIC DEPARTMENT.
MRS. KATE BARMORE.
Directress.

Instructions will be given on Piano, Mandolin and Guitar and Orchestral renditions. The course of instruction on piano will include standard grades by W. S. Mathews, Mason's Touch, Technic etc.

The Second Term of The First Scholastic Year —OF— Goodnight - College

Will commence, Monday, Jan. 1st, 1900, and will continue five scholastic months, ending May 17, 1900.

BOARD AND TUITION \$10 per scholastic month. Bills must be paid in advance, dating from time of enrollment.

Pupils may enter at any time; but the length of time during which they shall remain in school must be stated by the patron and agreed to by the president; and his BILL FOR THE TIME must be stated in advance.

Forty-six boarding pupils entered the first term.

Send for Pamphlet Announcement and learn how good board and the highest order of instruction can be had for \$10 per month.

C. GOONIGHT, President Board of Directors. **MARSHALL McILHANY,** President of Faculty.

G. W. ANTROBUS,
Drayman
AND DEALER IN
COAL.

LANE & GATLIN,
PROPRIETORS OF
The New City Livery Stable.
DEALERS IN
Corn, Oats, Bran and Hay.
Drummers Rigs, Buggies, teams. All new and fresh.
CLARENDON, TEXAS.

I. E. JONES,
—DEANER IN—
Staple and Fancy Groceries,
Feed and Grain,
COUNTRY PRODUCE BOUGHT AND SOLD.
CLARENDON, TEXAS.

The Agitator,
The Hall County News \$2.25.
And The St. Louis Republic, all for
Try the Combination.

CLARENDON LIVERY STABLE,
TERRY & BUNTIN, Props.
Drummers Accommodated, First-Class
Turnouts, Horses Boarded.
Feed Sold Cheap.

For Sale,
I have some blocks, also some five and ten acre blocks, located near the Clarendon College, also convenient to churches and the public school, in one-half mile of court house. Will sell cheap for cash or will give good terms.
Apply to or address.
A. W. McLAREN,
Clarendon, Texas.

The Agitator and Kansas City Star for 65 cents.

LOCAL NEWS.

Mr. Blair, lately from Fort Worth is employed in the steam Laundry.

Go to Anderson's for your Christmas candies, cakes, fruits, etc.

Price those Iron Express wagons at Stocking's store.

Dolls, guns, pistols, horns, dishes, and all kinds of toys for the children at Nelson & Co.

Call at Miss Porter's for Mexican drawn work for Christmas presents.

Frank ward and Jim Patman went overland to Goodnight last Sunday where they spent the day with friends.

If you believe in patronizing home people, why not place your life and accident insurance with home instead of traveling agents who represent the same companies.

Price those work boxes at Stocking's store.

We thank our friends and brethren for the friendly interest they have taken in our recent trial.

All kinds of builder's hardware at Anderson's.

Dr. Claude Wolcott, Oculist, will soon favor Clarendon with a visit. The doctor comes at the request of some of our citizens who desire services in his line. If

Wouldn't a ladies dressing table or desk make your wife or sweetheart a lovely Xmas present. Get them at Nelson & Co.

Mr. Rhode of Dallas who is working in the hardware store of G. C. Harkman has rented the dwelling of Mrs. Graves and will move his family here by Jan. 1st.

The storm season is here A. M. Beville writes Tornado Insurance.

Accidents do happen. If you want accident insurance see A. M. Beville.

Water sets, teaset, salad bowls, cake plates, celery trays, card receivers, bon bons and bowls and lots of other things to select your Xmas presents from at Nelson & Co's.

When you want an up-to-date stove go to Anderson's.

All kinds of nuts and candies at Anderson's.

We are glad our people have learned a better way of spending the holidays than engaging in a back woods dance.

Remember that Hill & Decker will always buy or sell second hand furniture. Bring in any old thing you have to sell; we'll buy it.

Come out one and all and hear a Christmas sermon at the Methodist church Sunday.

All kinds of fancy and useful articles in China at Nelson & Co's.

A brother-in-law of H. C. Barrett who has recently moved here is building a small residence on the north side.

A little of everything for Christmas at Hill & Decker.

Price those shaving sets at Stocking's store.

Several changes have been made recently in the policy and men on the Denver railway. Several more changes are expected after the first of the New Year.

Repairing second hand furniture a specialty at Hill & Decker's.

Big line of new furniture in a few days at Hill & Decker's.

Rev. M. K. Little of Ft. Worth spent last Monday night and part of Tuesday in Clarendon visiting friends.

Headquarters for the Dallas News the Globe Confectionery after Dec. 1st. All subscribers will please call here for same.

Fresh bread from the Star Bakery (made from Anderson's famous B. B. Flour) at all times.

W. B. Ware is away to Fort Worth where he is filing some suits in Federal court for the J. A. ranch.

A beautiful medalion in black and white or colors would make an appropriate Xmas gift. We have them. Nelson & Co.

Mrs. W. B. Ware will leave this week to visit her mother in Virginia, who is in very poor health. She will be gone several weeks.

Price those beautiful toilet sets at Stocking's store.

Do not waste your time baking fruit cake for Christmas; Anderson will sell you an up to date cake from the Star Bakery, for less than you can bake it.

Seven deer killed by a local sportsman near here were sold to Adams & Townsend, butchers and many of our citizens went rushing around to purchase deer meat. We did not for all the meat we have purchased in the last year has been DEAR meat.

Yes, the goods and prices are all right at Stocking's store. No trouble to price goods. If you buy your goods right you can make more people happy with the same expense, see?

Mr. Ed Hall visited his parents at Memphis Saturday and Sunday.

Persons desiring treatment for diseases of the eye, or glasses for poor vision, can do no better than consult Dr. Wolcott, who will be here Jan. 2 to remain a short time, owing to the nature of Dr. Wolcott's visit, it being at the urgent request of some Clarendon people. Those desiring his services should apply early as his stay is limited. If

Will office with Dr. Nelson while in Clarendon.

Fred Stocking came in from Fort Worth last Saturday where he has been attending school, to spend the Xmas Holidays at home.

Call on Hill & Decker for musical instruments, mandolins, guitars, guitar zithers, etc.

Mrs. Kate Barmore one of the music teachers of Clarendon college will leave Saturday for Austin to spend the Xmas holidays with her parents.

Wanted to feed 300 cattle for 3 months, have plenty of feed and water. Kaffer cut and bound. Write to or call and see, J. B. Russell, Estelline, Tex.

The Bank of Clarendon has laid a new side walk around their building the past week.

Dr. Claude Wolcott, the oculist regrets very much that he must postpone his visit to Clarendon until Jan. 2nd, 1900. Those desiring his professional services will do well to see him at that time.

The moon was in almost total eclipse last Saturday night from seven to eight o'clock.

J. L. Williams of Clarendon and Miss Hattie Carpenter of Collingsworth county were married at the Worth Hotel in Fort Worth last Thursday night.

The Xmas tree of the Methodist Sunday School will be Monday night Dec. 25th. The courtesy of the tree will be extended to the public if they desire to remember their friends and relatives through the medium of the tree. A. M. Beville, Supt.

Miss Mable Easum is the proud owner of a handsome new upright piano as her Xmas present.

W. H. Cooke, Cashier of Citizens Bank went to Decatur last Saturday where he purchased the Bank Fixtures of the Wise County National Bank which Bank has gone into liquidation.

All kinds of cheese at Andersons for the holiday trade. There will be on sale the finest American cheese, Brick, Swiss, Limberger, Edam, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam, cheese. The epicure can please his palate from this stock.

Mrs. R. A. Chamberlain went to Fort Worth last Friday in response to a message that her daughter Miss Bessie was sick with malarial fever. We hear that Miss Bessie is better and that they will return home about the last of this week.

Mrs. M. Adams has purchased from L. Gilnaugh the residence formerly occupied by Tom Mulhall and is having same rebuilt and made two stories high and will use it as a dwelling and boarding house.

It is reported that appraisers for the Loving Cattle Syndicate are here this week looking at Donley county ranches with a view to making offers on them for the Syndicates.

Editor Agitator. Please announce that I will meet my appointments in order, as follows: 1st Sunday, Naylor school house; 2nd Sunday, Mulberry Flat; 3rd Sunday, Union Hill; 4th Sunday, Whitefish. W. S. PARK.

Sunday Services.

Last Sunday was a beautiful day in Clarendon clear and a little cold but not enough to make it disagreeable. The congregation at the Methodist church was large. The house was crowded, and the singing was excellent. A very large crowd attended the Junior and Senior League in the evening and the program was a profitable one. We are delighted to see the young people taking such an interest in the League work. There is much work for our young Leaguers to do. We way the best service trust no sick or poor people be neglected during the winter.

Style and Comfort,

These Essentials are always found in

Queen Quality



SHOES.

Add to these feature that of splendid service, and you have the complete description of the famous shoes for women.

BEN CHAMBERLAIN

Has the Shoes. Come and See Them.

Miss M. L. Forbes,
Has Opened

Art Studio,

In the Ramsey building where she is now prepared to do first-class photograph work. She will also do outdoor work.

Views of Buildings, Farms, Etc.

Will also give lessons to those wishing, in Chemical Oil Painting. Will use Crayon, Pastel and water Colors.

JOHN F. WILLIAMS,
Dryman.

When you want any hauling of any kind done call on me. Prices reasonable.

PATTON & STOWERS,

PAINTERS and PAPER-HANGERS.

Also handle direct from the mills the largest and cheapest stock of Wall Paper to be found in Clarendon. Our prices on both Wall paper will suit the times. Give us a chance at your work. See our stock and get our prices on wall paper before you buy.

PATTON & STOWERS, Clarendon, Texas.

Caldwell & Jacques,

DEALER IN

Staple and Fancy Groceries,

Grain, Hay and Ranch Supplies.

Clarendon, Texas.

Clarendon College

AND

University Training School,

A Chartered Literary Institution,

Rev. W. B. McKEOWN, President

All the Departments of a high grade college with a faculty of eight teachers.

The fall term opened September 6.

Send for Catalogue and full information.

TROUP BROS.,

Draymen

and Dealers in Coal and Wood

CLARENDON, TEXAS.

HE KEPT THE PLEDGE

GOODFELLOW BILL WOULDN'T GO BACK ON HIS WORD.

Story of a Drunkard Who Was Reformed Under Peculiar Circumstances—Made a Promise While Drunk and Kept It When Sober.

Every eye was upon the speaker as he rose in the little church. Briefly he told of his boyhood home, of the training of a pious mother, of the example of a true and noble father.

"That's me, boys; that's me," Goodfellow Bill might have been heard to mutter once or twice had not all present been too intently listening to the man "who had been there" to heed so wretched an object as Goodfellow Bill.

With a voice of unutterable pathos the story was told of the first glass, taken in order to be like the other boys; of the second glass, just to be sociable; of the glasses that followed, because at last appetite held sway over reason and demanded another and another and yet another.

"There are those here tonight," entreated Mr. Wallis, "who are in the bondage of strong drink. Oh, friend, Christ wants you to come to him! He wants you to give up this evil. Will you not come forward now and sign this pledge? To sign the pledge is the only sure way to free yourself from alcohol. Don't delay; sign it now."

Now, Goodfellow Bill had sobered up enough to know that some one was asking him to sign his name to something. What that something was he did not rightly comprehend.

"I'm going, boys," he said. "Be great joke on the old man."

Up the aisle he reeled, and while the lecturer was engaged with an old lady who wanted to know if he thought there could be alcohol in cider Goodfellow Bill signed his name to the total abstinence pledge, reeled down the aisle, out of the door and had vanished into the darkness before the audience had begun to recover from its astonishment.

Morning dawned clear and bright. Goodfellow Bill was sober now and trying to remember what had occurred the night before. Surely he had been somewhere he had never been before, but where or why his memory refused to make known.

A man at the door interrupted Goodfellow Bill's reverie, and he caught a joyful, "In with you!" expecting to behold the person of some companion in his drunken revels, but to his surprise there appeared in the doorway a young man, neatly clothed, clean shaven, clear eyed.

"Good morning, Mr. Goodman," said Mr. Wallis. "I see you do not remember me. I am Mark Wallis. I lectured last night at the church. I dropped in this morning to tell you how very glad I was to see you sign the total abstinence pledge last night. I—"

"Hang it all, what do you mean?" demanded Goodfellow Bill uneasily. "I sign a pledge? You're a little mistaken, I should think. When I do—and Goodfellow Bill uttered a terrible oath—"just let me know. You've mistaken your goose, that's all."

"Mr. Goodman," began Mark, but again Goodfellow Bill thundered:

"Hang you! I am a man of my word. Any of the fellows will tell you that. I never signed a pledge. They tried some such game on me when I was a little shaver, but I fooled them. Show me my name hitched on to any pledge, and I'll keep it."

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Goodfellow Bill took the paper and read it through once, twice, then again. He examined the signature carefully. There could be no mistake; it was his own name in his own peculiar handwriting.

"When did I do that?" he asked in a quieter tone.

"Last night at the church," was the answer.

Then Goodfellow Bill, the drunkard, the tough, he who had faced death many times and never flinched, who had deluded himself into the belief that he had drowned memory in strong drink, laid his head upon the table and cried.

Mark Wallis, one hand on Goodfellow Bill's shoulder, pitied and prayed for him as only one who has been weak and become strong can pity and pray for one who has been strong and become weak.

What a pitiful yet familiar story it was that Goodfellow Bill told. It was the old story of a mother's counsel rejected, her love spurned and of far wanderings from the straight and narrow way.

"For five years," said Goodfellow Bill, "I've traveled about drinking and gambling, wanting many times to quit it all and go back to the old home and a better life, yet always putting it off some other time. In all those years no one has ever spoken to me as you have today. No one has seemed to care whether I sunk or swam."

All the bright morning hours the two men sat and talked, heart meeting heart, for one had been where the other

er now was.

That same day Will Goodman began his journey back to the old home and the gray haired mother who still awaited him, for he said: "I am a man of my word. I will never touch drink again, but I cannot let it alone here among the old companions. When I signed the pledge, drunk though I was, alcohol and I parted company forever."

In one of the far eastern states, in a little village nestled among the hills, there is a sweet faced old lady who is always ready with a word and work in the temperance cause and who, as she kneels every night at her bedside, thanks God for her son who was dead and is alive again.—Union Signal.

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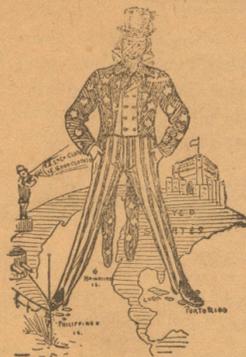
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