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Poetry.

THE MOTHER'S HAND.

BY CHARLES SWAIN. A wandering orphan child was I-But meanly, at the best, attired; For oh, my mother scarce could buy The common food each week required:

It seem'd to be her dearest joy,

To press her pale hand on my head,
And pray that God would guide her boy.

But more, each winter, more and more Stern suffering brought her to decay; And then an Angel passed her door, And I—they know not what is grief,
Who ne'er knelt by a dying bed;
All other woe on earth is brief,

Save that which weeps a mother dead. A seaman's life was soon my lot, 'Mid reckless deeds—and desperate men!
But still I never quite forgot
The prayer I ne'er should hear again:
And oft when half induced to tread

Such paths as unto sin decoy,
I've felt her fond hand press my head,
And that soft touch hath saved her boy

Though hard their mockery to receive. Who ne'er themselves 'gainst sin had striven Her, who on earth I dared not grieve, I could not-would not-grieve in heaven; And thus from many an action dread,

Too dark for human eyes to scan;
The same food hand upon my head
That blessed the boy—hath saved the man!

A Select Tale.

SWEARING OFF.

BY T. S. ARTHUR, Editor of the Home Gazette, and Author of many Moral and Popular Tales.

'John,' said a sweet-faced girl, laying her hand familiarly upon the shoulder of a young man who was seated near a window in deep abstraction of mind. There was something sad in her voice, -and her countenance though lovely, wore an expression of pain.

· What do you want, sister?' the young man replied, without lifting his eyes from the floor.

. You are not happy, brother,'

To this, there was no reply, and an embarrassing pause of some moments ensued.

'May I speak a word with you, brother?'-the young girl at length said, with a tone and manner that showed her, to be compelling herself to the performance of a painful and repugnant task.

'On what subject, Alice?' the brother asked, looking up with a doubting expres-

This question brought the colour to Alice's cheeks, and the moisture to her

. You know what I would say, John,' she at length made out to utter, in a voice that slightly trembled. 'How should I know, sister?'

'You were not yourself last night, John.'

· Alice ?"

'Forgive me, brother, for what I now say,' the maiden rejoined. 'It is a painful trial, indeed; and were it not that I loved you so well-were it not that, besides you, there is no one else in the wide world to whom I can look up, I might shrink from a sister's duty. But I feel that it would be wrong for me not to whisper in your ear one warning word-wrong not to try a sister's power over you.'

'I will forgive you this time, on one condition,' the brother said, in a tone of rebuke, and with a grave expression of

countenance. . What is that?' asked Alice.

On condition that you never again, directly or indirectly, allude to this subject, It is not in your province to do so. A sister should not look out for her brother's faults.'

A sudden gush of tears followed his cold, half-angry repulse; and then the maiden turned slowly away and left the room.

John Barclay's anger towards his only sister, who had no one, as she had feelingly said, in the wide world to look up and love, but him, subsided the moment he saw how deeply his rebuke had wounded her. But he could not speak to her nor recall his words-for the subject she had introduced was one so painful and mortifying, that he could not bear an allusion

From long indulgence, the habit of drinking had become confirmed in the young man to such a degree that he had almost ceased to resist an inclination that was gaining a dangerous power over him. And yet, there was in his mind an abiding resolution to break away from this habit, He did not intend to become a drunkard. Oh, no! The condition of a drunkard was too low and degrading. He could never sink to that! After awhile he intended to 'swear off," as he called it, and be done with the seductive poison alto-

gether; but he had not yet been able to taking a perpetual pledge of total-absti- to it. But tell me, Alice, did you perceive tend continuing to be a sober man as I allusion to the subject.

between the brother and sister, when the house, where every device that ingenuity | can keep from drinking always.' could invent, was displayed to attract cuspleasing thoughts-and tempting to selfindulgence. There were lounges, where turned from the office in silence. one might recline at ease, while he sipped death!

attractive establishment just alluded to.

· Six times a day, John, is too often for ken honesty,

Mr. Gray,' the other rejoined sternly.

My respect and regard for the father, Gray's calm reply.

In danger of what, Mr. Gray?' in speaking of the son of my old friend,

speak to me thus.'

but the truth.'

in fact, see a letter. 'What will you have, Mr. Barclay?'

asked an officious attendant, coming up, a When she entered the parlour, with her friends to regard him with changed feelfew moments after he had entered.

through his mind as he sat there. At last forward! where clustered so many temptations

'I want you to administer an oath,' he own. said, entering the office of an Alderman, a . Rather let me say, will you forgive few minutes after.

the Alderman. 'What is its nature?'

'I will give you the form.'

'I John Barclay, do solemnly swear, that for six months from this hour, I will is past now-and all forgiven.' not taste a drop of any kind of liquor that intoxicates.'

'I wouldn't take that oath, young man;' the Alderman said.

· Why not?"

· You had better go and join a temper- · O, I am so glad, John!' the sister said, was-

No-I will not sign a pledge never to drink again. I'm not going to make a six months.'

Why not swear off perpetually, then ? Because, as I said, I am not going to myself that I do not now possess.

'I very much fear, sir,' urged the Alderman, notwithstanding he perceived that and you must pardon my freedom in saying so, that you will find yourself in error. If you are already so much the slave of late. drink as to feel yourself compelled to have recourse to the solemnities of an oath to pend upon it, that no temporary expedient | piness ?' of this kind will be of any avail. You will, no doubt, keep your oath religiously, but when its influence is withdrawn, you will find the strength of an unsupported Alice?' resolution as weak as ever.'

to be a true one,' argued young Barelay-All I want is to get rid of present temptation, and to be freed from present associations. Six months will place me beyond the reach of these, and then I shall be able to do right from an internal principle, ton's, last night, you were by no means

and not from mere external restraint.' 'I see the view you take, and would not urge a word against it, did I not know deeply has it mortified me. I was suffer- now.' so many instances of individuals who have ing acutely from the recollection of the exvainly opposed their resolution against the posure which I made of myself on that power of habit. When once an appetite occasion, especially before Helen, when for intoxicating drinks has been formed, you alluded to the subject. That was the man's notion of yours.'

bring so good a resolution into present ac- nence. That, and that alone is the wall that my situation attracted Helen's atten- have been for the last three months. tivity. This being his state of mind- of sure protection. Without it, you are tion particularly?' conscious of danger, and yet unwilling to exposed to temptations on every hand. Yes. She noticed, evidently, that you time is up? fly from that danger, he could not bear any The manly and determined effort to be free were not as you ought to have been." will not always avail. In some weak and Half an hour, passed in troubled unsuspecting moment, the tempter will the young man. thought, elapsed after this brief interview steal quietly in, and all will be again lost.'

· It is useless, sir, to urge the point with young man left the house and took his me, Barclay replied to this: 'I will way, scarcely reflecting upon where he not now take the pledge-that is settled. was going, to one of his accustomed pla- I will take an oath of abstinence for six ces of resort-a fashionable drinking- months. If I can keep to it that long, I

Seeing that further argument would be against me?" tom. Splendid mirrors and pictures hung useless the Alderman said no more, but against the walls, affecting the mind with proceeded to administer the oath. The but I do not think that it has created in her young man then paid the required fee and mind any prejudice against you.'

When Alice left the room in tears, stung the delicious compounds the richly fur- by the cutting rebuke of her brother, she alone in her chamber, on my going up nished bar afforded, never at once dream- retired to her chamber with an oppressed stairs to put on my bonnet and shawl, she ing that a serpent lay concealed in the cup and aching heart. She loved him tender- said to me, and her eyes were moist as dismissed from my thoughts.' that he held to his lips-a serpent that ly. They were, sister and brother, alone well as my own, 'Alice, you ought to one day would sting him, perhaps unto in the world, and, therefore, her affections speak to your brother, and caution him sibility? Regular as clock-work, -said an old been a hard one in bringing herself to may grow on him, unawares. If he were six months, and the violation of that oath man, a friend of Barclay's father who had perform the duty which had called down as near to me as he is to you, I should not is, for one of my views and feelings, a been dead for several years, meeting the upon her the anger of one for whom she young man as he was about to enter the would almost have given life; and, therefore, warned him of his danger." the result was doubly painful, more par-· How,' asked Barclay in a tone of in- ticularly, as it had effected nothing, apparrently, towards a change in his habits.

But perhaps it will cause him to reyou to be seen going into one drinking- flect-if so, I will cheerfully bear his may never again have to perform. house,' said the old man, with plain-spo- anger,' was the consoling thought that passed through her mind, after the passage of 'You must not talk to me in that way, an hour, spent under the influence of most man asked, in a livelier tone, after a painful feelings.

O, if he would only be more on his will ever cause me to speak plainly to the guard,' she went on, in thought-- if he John. You know that we have been son when I think him in danger,' was Mr. will only give up that habit, how glad I together since we were little girls, until shall be !

Just then she heard him enter, and 'In danger of shall I utter the word marked the sound of his footsteps as he one day become,' the brother said, with a ascended to his own room, with a flutter- meaning smile. Mr. Barelay? Yes; in danger of-drunk- ing heart. In the course of fifteen or 'Most affectionately will I receive her twenty minutes, he went down again, and . Mr. Gray, I cannot permit any one to she listened to observe if he were going Helen Weston, there is no one whom I out. But he entered the parlour, and then had rather see the wife of my dear bro-Be not offended at me, John. I utter all was, again, quiet.

For some time Alice debated with her-'I will not stand to be insulted by any self whether she would go down to him around his neck and kissed him affectionone!' was the young man's angry reply, or not, and make the effort to dispel the ately. as he turned suddenly away from his aged anger that she had aroused against her; the shall not be my fault, then, Alice, if friend, and entered the drinking house. but she could not make up her mind how she do not become your sister—' was the He did not go up at once to the bar, as had to act, for she could not tell in what mood brother's response. been his habit, but threw himself down she might find him. One repulse was as upon one of the lounges, took up a news- much, she felt, as she could bear. At last lay soon gained the honourable estimation paper, and commenced, or rather, appeared however, her feelings became so wrought in the social circle through which he to commence reading, though he did not, up, that she determined to go down and moved, that he had held, before wine, the seek to be reconciled. Her brother's mocker, had seduced him from the ways of anger was more than she could bear.

usual quiet step, she found him seated near ings. Possessing a competence, which Nothing just now,' was the reply, the window, reading. He lifted his head a father's patient industry had accumulated, made in a low tone, while his eyes were as she came in, and she saw at a glance not lifted from the newspaper. No very that all his angry feelings were gone. How apon any business. Now, however, he pleasant reflections were those that passed lightly did her heart bound as she sprang began to see the propriety of doing so,

been suddenly formed, and left the place laying her hands upon his shoulder as she thorough knowledge of business to enter by his side, and bent her face down until her fair cheek almost touched his fer was accepted, and the two young men

me, sister?' was his reply, as he kissed · Very well, sir. I am ready,' replied her affectionately- for the unkind re- John Barclay had mentioned to his sister pulse I gave you, when to say what you that he entertained a regard for Helen sacrifice of feeling?"

· Painful indeed it was, brother. But it

Since then, Alice,' he said, after pause, 'I have taken a solemn oath, adany kind of intoxicating drink for six first frequently asked to drink by his as-

ance society. Signing the pledge will be a joyful smile lighting up her beautiful a 'No-1 have sworn off for six months.' young face. 'But why did you say six months? Why not for life?'

Because, Alice, I do not wish to bind mere slave of myself. I'll swear off for myself down to a kind of perpetual slavery. I wish to be free, and act right in freedom from a true principle of right. ly three months this very day since I verised them, and mixed them in equal Six months of entire abstinence from all swore off.' make a slave of myself. Six months of kinds of liquor will destroy that appetite total abstinence will give me a control over for it which has caused me, of late, to seek it far too often. And then I will, as a free man, remain free.'

'I shall now be so happy again, John!' the young man was growing impatient - Alice said, fully satisfied with her broth-

'So you have not been happy then of

'O, no, brother. Far from it!' And has the fact of my using wine so

'Its effects upon me have not been so visible as often to attract your attention, I never saw you out of the way.'

O, yes, they have. Scarcely a day 'I do not believe the position you take has gone by for three or four months past, that I could not see that your mind was obscured, and often your actions sensibly

> · I did not dream that it was so, Alice.' ' Are you not sensible, that at Mr. Wesyourself ?

'Yes, Alice, I am sensible of that, and there is only one way of safety-that of reason that I could not bear your allusion

· How did it affect her, Alice?' asked

'She seemed much pained, and. I thought, mortified.'

. Mortified ?' · Yes.

A pause of some moments ensued, when miserable slave? I would rather die drunk Barclay asked, in a tone of interest,

· Do you think it has prejudiced her · It has evidently pained her very much,

' From what do you infer this, Alice ?' . From the fact, that, while we were clung the closer to him. The struggle had against this free indulgence in wine; it

'Did she say that, sister?'

'Yes, those were her very words.' 'And you did warn me, faithfully.' . Yes. But the task is one I pray that I

'Amen,' was the fervent response.

silence of about a minute. 'I have always been attached to her,

now we are most like sisters." And a sister, truly, I hope she may

as such,' was the reply of Alice 'Than ther.'

As she said this, she drew her arm

Rigidly true to his pledge, John Barctrue sobriety, and caused even his best he had not, hitherto, thought of entering and as he had plenty capital, he proposed he rose up quickly, as if a resolution had . Will you forgive me brother?' she said, to a young man of industrious habits and nto a co-partnership with him. The of commenced the world with the fairest called a French drain. prospects.

Three months from the day on which did must have caused you a most painful Weston, he made proposals of marriage like ourselves, have experienced but little to that young lady, which were accepted. But how in regard to his pledge?' I

hear some one ask. ·O. as to that, it was kept, rigidly. Nothing that could intoxicate was allowed ministered by an Alderman, not to touch to touch his lips. Of course, he was at the tortures of this disease, a friend entered sociates, but his reply to all importunities our suffering, joyously exclaimed:

> 'So you have said for the last six nonths,' remarked a young man, named Watson, one day, on his refusing for the twentieth time to drink with him.

' Not for six months, Watson. It is on-

Well, it seems to me like six months, anyhow. But do you think that you feel any better for all this total abstinence?

. O, as to that, I don't know that I feel such a wonderful difference in body; but in mind I certainly do feel a great deal bet- tion of the mixed alum and salt-a sensa-

While I drank, I was conscious that I was beginning to be too fond of drinking, and was too often painfully conscious that break away from its bewitching power, de- freely been the cause of your unhap- I had taken too much. Now, I am, of course, relieved from all such unpleasant feelings.

. Well, that's something, at least But · Do you know the reason, Watson.

· No. 'I'll tell you. You were always too far gone yourself, when we drank freely together, to perceive my condition.'

So you say.' · It's true.

'Well, have it as you like. But, see here, John, what are you going to do when your six months are out?"

'I was precious near being one, then.' 'Nonsense! That's all some old wo-

'You never were a drunkard.'

· Won't you drink a drop after your

'That'll be just as I choose. I will drink or let it alone, as I like. I shall then be free to drink moderately, or not at

all, as seems agreeable to me.' · That is a little more sensible than your perpetual total-abstinence, teetotal, coldwater system. Who would be such a in the gutter, than throw away my liberty.

'I believe I have said as much myself.' 'Don't you feel a desire to have a good glass of wine, or a julep, now and then?" . No, not the slightest. I've sworn off for six months, and that ends the matter. Of course, I have no more desire for a glass of liquor than I have to fly to the moon-one is a moral, and the other a physical impossibility; and, therefore, are

· What do you mean by a moral impos-

'I have taken an oath not to drink for moral impossibility.'

'Exactly. There are three months yet to run, you say. After that, I hope to have the pleasure of taking a glass of wine with you in honor of your restoration to a state of freedom.

'You shall have that pleasure, Watson, if it will really be one-' was Barclay's · How do you like Helen? the young reply, as the two young men parted. [To be concluded.]

Agricultural, &c.

" Spouty Land."

Farmers are often troubled with what are generally known as spouty places in their fields. They are caused by small streams of water, which coming near the surface, are scattered through the soil, keeping it too wet for the growth of useful plants. This evil can be remedied at thank you, which I do most sincerely, a small expense; and that which is an in- not only for your exertions in my behalf, jury to the field be converted into a bene- which we can only regret having been unhit, in the following manner:-Dig a ditch availing, but also for many acts of kindness across the upper end of the spouty place deep enough to cut off the streams of water which cause it, and then carrying it in thing else to keep the earth from filling up ay, which did not fail in the dryest seasons. This is what is commonly

Infallible fure for the Toothache. Those of our readers who have felt the

excruciating pangs of this disease, and who, human sympathy on such occasion, will no doubt be gratified to be put in possession of a remedy which will in all probability forever quiet the unmerciful offender.

On one occasion while laboring under the room, and after learning the cause of

Why, my dear friend, I can cure you in five minutes. · How? how?' inquired we.

· Have you any alum?'

· Yes.

Bring it, and some common salt." They were produced-my friend pulquantities; then wet a small piece of cotton, causing the mixed powders to adhere,

and placed it in the hollow tooth. "There,' said he, 'if that does not cure

you, I will forfeit my head.' It was as predicted. On the introduction of coldness was experienced, which gradually subsided, and with it the torment of the toothache.

Dr. Powell's Mixture

For the Fistula, Pole Evil, Felons, &c. Spirits of turpentine, half pint. Oil of spike, one ounce.

Verdigris, half ounce. Sulphuric acid, two ounces. The Sulphuric acid is to be added in very small quantities at a time, and the bottle is to be shaken at every addition. If for a felon, grease the skin and hold the

To Relieve Choked Animals.

affected parts in the mixture.

Take a flexible rod about four feet long and three fourths of an inch in diameter. 'I'm going to be a sober man, as I am wind on the but end tow or cotton, and tie a rag over that and grease it. To keep the mouth open, place a piece of hard wood one foot long, four inches wide, and one inch thick with a hole bored in the centre for the rod to pass through, and . Well, be that as it may, I certainly in- then push it gently down the throat, and 1

it is said to be always effectual and to give immediate relicf.

a lingering death.

It is also said that a round stick about the size and length of a rolling pin with a cord tied in the notches in the ends, placed in the animals mouth and fastened to each horn, will, if allowed a little time, unchoke them and save the suffering creature from

Miscellancous.

Mr. Owen, late Cousni at Havana.

The National Intelligencer publishes a letter filling near three columns, from Mr. Owen, late Consul at Havana, in which he defends himself from the charges of inhumanity and want of energy in the discharge of his duties in reference to the prisoners who were captured by the Cuban authorities and executed for their participation in the Lopez expedition. Mr. Owen denies, strenuously, these charges and insists that he did all that was compatible with the circumstances under which the prisoners were placed, and the limited powers with which he was himself invested. He publishes the copy of a letter he addressed to the Captain General, soliciting the lives of fifty prisoners who were sentenced to be shot, or in the event that could not be granted asking that their execution might be deferred. To this the Captain General replies that the men captured are not American citizens or citizens of any other nation, but pirates, and that he cannot permit any interference in regard to their fate from Mr. Owen or any other resident Consul. In regard to the prisoners who were subsequently captured Mr. Owen asserts that he did everything to the utmost of his ability to alleviate their condition and administer to their wants, furnishing them with food, clothing and other necessaries out of his private funds. He also

publishes a letter from Mr. Thrasher, written

on the eve of his departure for Spain, in

which he says to Mr. Owen:-"I have to

which you have extended to me.' SLANDER .- Let it be graven upon your the direction in which the ground ascends memory that a person who repeats a slanuntil it reaches a point where the surface der, even though he give the name of his of the ground is a little lower than the author, is no better and far more mischievbottom of the ditch where it traverses the ous, than its originator. He endorses the wet plain. This done fill the ditch a few lie by his repetition of it, and as, without inches deep with small stones; and upon his endorsement, it never could have gained the stones lay some straw, leaves, or some- credit, he is responsible for the mischief by the law of God and man. We would with the clay or soil which was thrown take a spurious note far more readily from out. The water which caused the 'spout' an honest man than from a known counwill find its way among the stones at the terfeiter, and every additional hand it passes bottom of the ditch. and follow them to through adds to the deception. Because the issue prepared, where it will form a slander is more accumulative than the snow small spring, sufficient in many cases to ball. It is like a salad which every one make a watering place for cattle. We saw will season to his own taste or those to a small spring of excellent water obtained whom he offers it; or like the kite of a child, to which additional exaggerations are attached, each light in itself, but together, forming a counterballancing weight without which the airy trific would fall again to the earth, when with eager speed he runs to make it soar aloft.

THE JOYS OF AFFECTION .- Cherish your hearts best affections. Indulge in he warm and gushing emotions of filial, parental, and fraternal love. Think it not weakness. God is love. Love God, everybody, and everything that is lovely. Teach your children to love; to love the rose-to love the robin-to love their parents-to love their God. Let it be the studied object of your domestic culture to give them warm hearts, and ardent affections. Bind your whole family together by these strong cords. You cannot make them too strong. Religion is love-love to God, and love to man.

BROWN'S Essence of GINGER, at A. A. BANKS' Variety store.

SHOULDER Braces, a new and superior article, at A. A. BANKS' Variety store. SHAVING Cream, a delightful article, softening the beard and easing the labor

ERFUMERY-Bay Rum. Cologne, Verbena, Sweet Briar, Patcheoly, Jenny Lind, Jasmine, Rose, at d19 BANKS' Variety store.

BANKS' Variety store.

CIGARS.—A great variety of CIGARS, bought low and selling accordingly. Lovers of the weed, the place to get a good and cheap article, is at BANKS' Variety store.

POR PUDDINGS.—Hecker's Faring, prepared expressly for tamilies, hotels and eating houses. Corn Starch, a new article for the same purpose, similarly prepared, for sale Banks' Variety Store.

NOR CHRISTMAS. - Beautiful ornamental Alabaster Fancy Boxes, and other

knick-knacks.
Also, Fancy Soars, admirable imitations in appearance, of fruit-a new article, just received and for sale at

BANKS' Variety Store. Stationery! Stationery! DLUE and White LETTER PAPER Gilt edged ""

Assorted colors Plain and Fancy note "

Blue and White Foolscap Envelopes, Wafers, Quills and Steel Pens. at A. A. BANKS'