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# A Political Reminiscence. LIROM the records of Niles' Register the

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"Not a Drop More, Daniel."

A Good Temperance Story.

DANIEL AKIN had become a con-firmed drunkard. So fully had he come under the dominion of his appetite, that he was perfectly miserable when he could not obtain the means of gratifying his thirst. He had neglected his family till his wife's father had taken her and the children to the paternal roof. He had spent all his substance in drink, and was kept from the poorhouse only by performing menial services for his food, and by the kindness of Thomas Edgerton, a member of the Society of Friends, who had known him from his youth, and who had a strong hope that, in the course of time, he would see his folly, and turn again into the right path.

The leading publican of the place had let him have drink so long as his money lasted, but would trust him no longer. He was lounging about the place one bright moon-light evening, pleading with the publican to trust him for a drink-his reply was:

"Not a drop more, Daniel !"

He remained a while longer, and then left. As the cool air of the evening fell upon him, he, all at once, gave utterance to his feelings in the following strain:

"Not a drop more, Daniel." Am I drunk or am I sober? I am sober. "Not a drop more, Daniel." Did Hoskins think a drop would hurt me? No; but by money was gone. He has got all-got everything I had; even the Bible my mother gave me ! He has got the boots which my wife, with her own earnings, bought for Jennie, "Not a drop more, Daniel." Daniel, what say to his wife: you to that? I say so too. I once had good clothes, but now I have nothing but rags. "Not a drop more, Daniel," till I then he will go to California." have clothes again as good as when Mary and I were first married. I once had a good watch, but that, too, is gone ! "Not a drop more, Daniel," till I have another as good as the one I pawned to Hoskins for drink. I have seen the day when I had a good horse and buggy, and could ride into the town in as good a style as any man in the place. "Not a drop more, Daniel," till I have another horse and buggy as good as I once had. I had cows that furnished my family with butter and cheese, but Hoskins has got them. "Not a drop more, Daniel," till those cows or others as good are mine again. I once had this wallet full of bills; but now not one cent have I got. "Not a drop more, Daniel," till this wallet is well filled again. By this time he had reached the place where he formerly resided, and leaning up against the fence, he mused a long time in silence. He viewed the desolate place by the light of the moon, and his eyes ranged over the house and farm, once his own. He then said to himself: "Once I owned this house and farm. Here I was born. Here my father and mother d.sd. I was the pride of their hearts; but I brought down their gray hairs with sorrow to the grave! Hore I began my married life; and all that heart could wish was mine. Here Mary and I took comfort together, till Hoskins came and opened his rum-shop; and now he calls it his. In that south room my children were born, and there my Jennie died. Oh, how sorrowful she looked when she saw me take her boots and start for the store to pawn them for rum, while she lay sick upon the bed ! And then how she begged me never to strike her mother again ! Lican see her now; her pale face, her wasted form; but she cannot come to me again. And oh, my wife, how shamefully I abused her ! It was not your Daniel that did it. No; it was Hoskins' accursed rum ! No wonder you were taken from me by those who loved you and would not see you abused. They won't have me |

you. "Not a drop more, Daniel," till this house is mine again. "Not a drop more, Daniel," till these broad acres are again in my possession, and the wife and the children that are living, are in yonder rooms, and we are a happy family once more .--"Not a drop more, Daniel." Help me, my God, till all these things are accomplished ! I thank you, Hoskins, for these words. I shall not forget them."

He had become so much occupied with his thoughts, and spoken in a tone so loud, that he had not noticed the wagon which by this time, had reached the road, in which was seated the kind-hearted Quaker before mentioned. He stopped his horse, and heard distinctly the language Daniel used. As he closed his soliloquy he turned and saw Thomas Edgerton, who said:

"Daniel, does thee mean to keep thy vow ?"

"Yes, Friend Edgerton, I do."

"Thee hast promised a great many times thee'd drink no more. What makes thee think thee will keep thy vow this time ?"

"I know, Friend Edgerton, I have often vowed I would drink no more, but now I feel different from what I have felt before ; my heart is almost broken, and I feel my weakness; and I believe God will help me this time."

gry, come home with me."

On the way the Quaker drew out of him all that has been written, and he advised him to go to California. He told him to go to New York, and work his way round the Cape. He decided to do so. The Quaker kindly promised to furnish him with suitable clothing.

"Thee would like to see thy wife and children before thee goes ?"

"I should ; but they have become so estranged from me, if I went, perhaps they would not receive me. I think it will be better they should not know where I am. I want to surprise them, and hope to do so, by coming back a sober man, and with money enough to make them comfortable. I prefer that you and your wife should be the only persons in the place who shall know where I am, or what I am doing."

Thus, while riding toward the quiet farm-house of the Quaker, the whole thing was arranged. When they reached the farm, the horse was put into the barn, and they entered the house. As they seated themselves before the fire, the Quaker said

"Amy, thee can put on another plate Daniel will stay with us a few days, and The good Quaker felt confident Daniel would keep his word this time. At the end of a few days everything was in readiness. The old horse was harnessed, and before daylight Daniel Akin was on his way to the railway station,-he had not been in the village since the night when the words "Not a drop more, Daniel," were uttered. He was missed from his customary haunts; but it was supposed he had gone on a "spree," and so nothing was thought of his absence. No inquiries were made, for all were glad that he was missing, and cared not for his return.

in the house. They won't let me live with matter to conclude that the interest of eight hundred dollars was far better than a farm, for the use of which he realized scarcely anything, and at last said:

"You can have it."

"Very well, Hoskins ; thee can make out the deeds to morrow ; and thee shall have thy money. By the by, does thee know what has become of Daniel Akin?"

"No ; he has not been in the village for more than a year ; at any rate, I have not seen him."

We may here tell the reader something that Hoskins did not know. The Quaker had that day received a letter from Daniel Akin, 'stating that he was at the mines, hard at work, and sticking to his motto, "Not a drop more, Daniel," that he had laid up a few hundred dollars, and desired him to inquire what the place he once owned could be bought for.

Mr. Edgerton had taken the method above mentioned to find out the views of Hoskins respecting the place ; so confident was he that Daniel Akin would come home a sober man, with money in his pocket, that he had ventured to purchase the place, to keep for him till his return.

He wrote to Akin, informing him what he had done, and about three moths after he received a letter from him stating that he had sent by express five hundred dollars in gold to a banker in New York, with "God grant that it may be so ! Daniel, orders to sell it, and remit the proceeds to get in and take a seat. Thee must be hun- him to go towards the money for the farm.

> Gold at that time commanded a high premium, and the five hnudred dollars became eight hundred before they reached the hands of friend Edgerton. Akin requested him to draw up a deed giving the whole property to his wife, Mary, and to have it duly recorded, and left with the register of deeds.

In his letter, he said :

"If, perchance, I should ever break my resolution, I shall have secured a home for my wife and children. I prefer, however, that they should not know anything of this for the present. If I live to come home ] will give Mary the deeds with my own hands ; if not you can do it. Now that the farm is bought you had better stock it, for I still stick to my motto, "Not a drop more, Daniel.

Another year passed away. By this time friend Edgerton had stocked the farm with young cattle and sheep, the fences were put in repair, and everything but the house wore a tidy appearance. Another remittance came, which paid for all the stock, and left an overplus with which to repair the house. Carpenters were busy, and villagers who happened to pass that way found that extensive repairs were going on ; still no one presumed to question he Quaker with respect to his plane These repairs completed, furniture found its way into the house. A yoke of oxen were seen on the farm. The villagers were astonished to see the Quaker driving an elegant horse, and riding in a new buggy. He received this short note one day "I have arrived all safe and sound .-Please go and get Mary and the children. Friend Edgerton rode over to the next town and called on Mary's father, and invited her and the children to go home with him and make a visit. The invitation was accepted, and they returned with the Quaker to his house. In the afternoon of the next day he said :

"Thee would like to see him, would thee not?" "Oh, yes ! indeed I should."

"Let us walk up stairs."

As they went up the front stairs, Daniel slipped down the back ones, and took his stand in the front room. When they returned, Mrs. Akin noticed a stalwart man standing in the room with his back to the door, and started back for an instant. The Quaker said :

"It is a friend, Mary."

Daniel turned around, but in the man with the heavy beard and moustache Mary did not recognize her husband. Daniel advanced to the spot where Mary was standing, and in a voice tremulous with emotion, exclaimed.

" Don't you know me, Mary?"

We leave the reader to imagine what the meeting was. Friend Edgerton said he must go and see Amy, and addressing himself to Mary, said :

"Mary, this house and farm are thine. Daniel has got the papers, and will give them to thee. Thee can stay here as long as thee likes; thee will live happily once more, for that ( pointing to the frame over the mantel-piece)-"Not a drop more, Daniel"-is his motto now, and will be as long as he lives."

Daniel and his wife fell on their knees before the Lord. Their prayers were mingled with many tears, but in their future lives those prayers were found to be answered.

Several years have passed away since the above events occurred, and Daniel Akin, now an earnest Christian man, still sticks to his motto :

"NOT A DROP MORE, DANIEL I"

### Mrs. Prim on Scandal.

No, my dear-Goodness be thanked !no person can say that I ever scandalized any one, or even my worst enemy, no matter what she or he may do! I've had chances enough to talk, if I had a mind to, as every one in the town knows full well. Of course, living here right in the High Street of the town, I can't help seeing a great many queer things ; and when our windows are open and our blinds shut in the summer time, I can hear them, too ! But I never repeat them-I scorn to make mischief. I never lisp a word, except when I get hold of some safe person, like you, my dear, that I know I can trust. And if a body is never to open her mouth among her most intimate friends, why, the world isn't worth living in-is it? But that isn't plied, "Faix an' shure, docthur, I mane scandal, you know. I hate and abhor that just as much as you do, and I don't think any one can say I was ever gulity of it in my life.

fact is shown that Congress, in 1816, passed what was called a "compensation bill," changing the pay of members from \$6 per day while in service to \$1500 per annum, and increasing the pay of Speaker and Vice President at the same time. It passed by a very decided vote, but was so distaseful to the country as to defeat every man who voted for it and compel the next Congress to change it although it made the new act take effect upon the following Congress. Pay was again fixed at so much per day during the session, but the amount was raised to \$8. The increase voted then amounted to \$200,000. Henry Clay was among those who had to run the gauntlet of popular disfavor because he voted for it.

Hence this little incident: During the canvass Mr. Clay met an old hunter who had previously been his devoted friend, but was now opposed to him on the ground of the compensation bill. "Have you a good rifle, my friend? " asked Mr. Clay. "Yes." "Does it ever flash?" "Once only." "What do you do with itthrow it away?" " No; I picked the flint, tried it again, and brought down the game." "Have I ever flashed but on the compensation bill?" " No." "Will you throw me away ?" " No ! no !" quickly responded the hunter, nearly overwhelmed by his enthusiastic feelings; "I will pick the flint and try you again?"

John Pope, well-known in the politics of Kentucky, offered himself as a candidate against Mr. Clay. He was a one armed man which gives point to the following bit of Irish wit:

An Irish barber residing at Lexington had always given Mr. Clay h is vote, and on all occasions when he was a candidate for office electioncered warmly for him. His ardent temperament and unrestrained passions involved him in scrapes and difficulties, out of which Mr. Clay had generally succeeded in extricating him. While the canvass was going on, after the compensation bill, the barber did not evince his usual zeal and animation; on the contrary seemed to be indifferent as to the result of the election. To all inquiries for whom he designed to vote he answered evasively. He was accosted a few days previous to the election by a gentleman for whom he entertained the most profound regard with the question, "For whom, Jerry, do you mean to vote ?" Regarding his interrogator with a shrewd look, he reto vote for the man who can't put more nor one hand into the threasury."

The Irishman's logic was as good as his wit. But the results of the proceeding are most fully described in the following extract from a letter of Thomas Jefferson to Albert Gallatin, dated June 16, 1817. He says: According to the opinion I hazarded to you a little before your departure, we have had almost an entire change in the body of Congress. The unpopularity of the compensation law was completed by the manner of repealing it as to all the world except themselves. In some States, it is said, every member is changed; in all. many. What opposition there was to the original law was chiefly from Southern members. Yet many of those have been left out because they received the advance wages. I have never known so unanimous a sentiment of disapprobation, and what is remarkable is, that it was spontaneous. The newspapers were almost entirely silent, and the people not only un-ruled by their leaders but in opposition to them. I confess I was highly pleased with this proof of the innate good sense, the virillance and the determinition of the the vigilance, and the determination of the people to act for themselves.

He had been gone somewhat more than a year, when the Quaker was in the store of Hoskins, and wished to hire a pasture for the coming season.

"I have one I will let you have free, if you will put up the fences on the place,' said Hoskins.

"Where is it ?" asked the Quaker.

"It's on the Akin's farm," was the reply.

"If thee will let it at that rate, thee must have let it get sadly out of repair."

"It is, indeed : I cannot leave the store to look after it. The house is poor and the family who lived in it last were too shiftless to buy wood, so they burnt up all the fences ; in fact, I would rather sell it than rent it."

"What will thee take for it?" inquired the Quaker.

"It cost me sixteen hundred dollars." "Yes, but thee paid it in goods, and charged them your price for them."

"To be sure I did. Akin could not get trusted anywhere else, and I felt that I was running a great risk in letting him have goods ; so I charged accordingly ; just as anybody else would have done under the circumstances."

"But thee has not told me what thee will take for the place. I will give thee eight hundred dollars for it, if that is any object to thee."

Hoskins thought long enough over the

"Mary, I want to go to the railway station. Thee and the children can stay with Amy,"

He went down to the station and fetched Daniel, and left him at his own house, where he had previously conveyed some provisions, and where he was to pass the night. It was dark when Friend Edgerton reached his home.

Next morning Friend Edgerton said to Mary :

"Mary, I suppose thee has heard I have bought thy old place? I have got it fitted up, and thee and thy children shall ride over after breakfast and see it. I think thee will like it."

They rode over ; and Mary was surprised to see the change which had taken place. They looked over the lower rooms first; and over the mantle piece, in the sitting-room, was a frame, and under the glass, in large gold letters, were these words :

"NOT A DROP MORE, DANIEL." Mary, on reading these words, said :

"Oh, Friend Edgerton, if Daniel could have said these words, and stuck to them, this beautiful place might have still been his."

"Then, thee don't know where Daniel is ?" asked the Quaker.

"No. I have not heard anything of him for more than three years."

But then, as I said before, it isn't for the want of a chance. Why, only last evening who do you think I saw walk up by here, in the bright moonlight, as brazen as you please, but Miss L. and Colonel P. ! Fact, as sure as you sit in that chair ! and they were walking close together, and talking so confidential !

I suppose you know all about the disgraceful affair with the school girls? No? My dear, you must really live in the dark ! Why, they have been writing a lot of anonymous letters to people here in town, and the Postmaster suspected what was up at last, and he just kept a quiet lookout, and caught some of them putting the letters in. I don't know what Miss C. will do, Expel them, I hope ; great girls like those have no business to act so !

There's Mrs. P. going by. I presume she has been down to cheapen a fowl, or get a half-penny or two taken off of a joint of meat. She's the stingiest thing, my dear ; it would really make your heart ache to hear how she manages and contrives ! And there is her husband one of the richest men in town, and folks do say that he can't get a decent meal of victuals in his own house. Wouldn't you-

What ! going ? Can't you stay any longer? Well, do come again very soon, won't you? Good-bye!

Thank goodness, she has gone ! I really thought she was agoing to stay all night. I heard a nice story about her, by the way, last week-how shamefully she treats all her servants ! Suppose she thinks I don't know it. I might make mischief enough in her family, if I chose. But I abhor scandal.

the A girl named Roberts, aged thirteen, living in Slatington, Lehigh county, left her home last December without money, and succeeded in getting to Liverpool. After staying in Wales for about a month she became dissatisfied with the land of her forefathers and returned to Slatington a few days ago.

### Robbing the Mails.

For months past, the popular and reliable publishers, Mesars, Hunter & Co., of Hinsdale, N. H., have been annoyed and dismayed at the immense losses of valuable letters which were daily occurring. Alded by the chief Detective and two special P. O. Agents, they have at last the satisfaction of seeing the thief-a night clerk in the Boston P. O .- "behind the bars," and he has confessed all. Messra, H. & Co.'s losses have been enormous; in fact, no exact estimate can at present be made. The thief carefully examined, aided by a light, every letter, and took every one that contained money. He was caught in the act and arrested, and, if he gets his dues will board with the State for from five to ten years. Meantime the prosperous Ibusiness of Hunter & Co. goes on with its usual energy, promptness and care, and those who have lost money by mail will now see just where it went, and avoid giving the blame to honest persons.