PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

From the True Democrat

SONG OF THE MODERATE DRINKER.

BY FRANCIS D. GAGE.

Come list to my song, all ye gathered throng,
'Tis the song of the boasted free,
A song from the heart, that we dare to part,
With a cherished liberty.

Oh, there was a time, oh there was a time,
That I quaffed from the flowing bowl,
All, sparkling and bright, in the rosy light,
Dark madness to my soul.

Thro' years unblest, was the wine cup press'd
To my lip with a steady hand,
And I boasted loud that my manhood proud
Should ne'er wear a drunkard's brand.

Sign the pledge, not I, I would sooner die
Than sign myself a slave,
The right to think and the right to drink,
Belong to the strong and the brave.

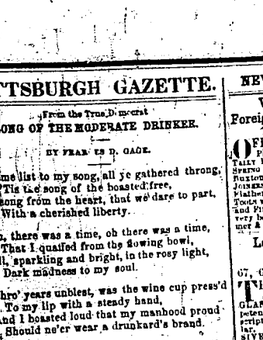
Thus, the weak and the young, with an influence strong,
I led into ruin's path,
And the father's fears, and the mother's tears
I spurned with my words of wrath.

But there came a time, e'en in manhood's prime,
When my spirit quailed within,
When my only boy, my hope and joy,
Fell a martyr to my sin.

Oh, talk not cried he, with your fears for me!
Away with your pledge, away,
A drunkard or not, my father is not,
And he drinks with each passing day.

Alas, shall I tell how my loved one fell,
How the blight of the sparkling bowl,
Tho' it seared not my frame, with its scorching flame,
Burnt its curse into my soul.

Then give me your pen, ye strong, true men,
For the day and the hour has come—
It has come at length, when my power and strength
Shall be given to conquer *Rum*.



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