

It Might Have Been.

It might have been! When life is young
And hopes are bright, and hearts are strong
To battle with the heartless throng,
When youth and age are far between,
Who hears the words so sadly sung?
It might have been!

It might have been! When life is fair,
Youth stands beside the boundless sea
That ebbs and flows unceasingly,
And dreams of name and golden fame;
And who shall limit the To Be
That's dawning there?

It might have been! When life is bright,
And love is in its golden prime,
Youth reck not of the coming night,
Noa dreams that there may be a time
When love will fail, or change, or die
Eternally!

It might have been! When time grows gray,
And spring-tide's hopes have passed away,
Old age looks back on by-gone years—
Their many wants and doubts and fears;
And through the mist a way is seen,
The might-have been!

It might have been! When age so sad,
Weary of waiting for the fame
That, after all, is but a name;
When life has lost the charm it had,
True knowledge makes regret more keen—
It might have been!

It might have been! When youth is dead,
And love that was so false is fled,
When all the mockeries of the past
Have lost their tinsel rags at last,
The one true love is clearly seen
The might-have been!

It might have been! Ah me! Ah me!
And who shall tell the misery
Of knowing all that life has lost?
By thinking of the countless cost
Poor comfort can the sad heart glean!
It might have been!

It might have been! Nay, rather rest
Believing what has been the best!
The life whose sun has not yet set
Can find no room for vain regret,
And only folly crowns as queen
Its might-have-been,

Facts Worth Knowing.

There is no greater evil in all Christendom than intemperance. There are no sterner reasons for any reform in the world than for the temperance reform. There is no evil producing such dreadful results; there is no cause that can be espoused in behalf of which so much can be said in its favor, so much in the way of fact and statistic and argument appealing to the mind. You have heard say that one hundred thousand lives are lost by intemperance. That may be a high estimate; they used to talk about sixty thousand as being the number of deaths caused by liquor. Sixty thousand annually destroyed! Have you any idea of what that means? Suppose that an earthquake should have swallowed up four cities like Auburn in this State; that would make sixty thousand. Suppose another earthquake should swallow up another city in Pennsylvania, then another in some other State, and so it should go on year after year; how long would we be living in this land? Would we not leave it as we would fly from the pestilence? And yet sixty thousand lives are destroyed every year by alcoholic drinks. You have heard of the terrible accident that occurred on the Hudson River railroad, when the express train ran into an oil train and twenty lives were lost. As the morning paper was taken up horror ran through the community; everybody felt thrilled by excitement in view of the awful havoc in connection with that railroad accident. Suppose that the next month a similar telegraphic dispatch was sent that another accident had happened on the same road, and next month another, throughout the year; that would have amounted to about 250 lives lost on the Hudson River railroad for a year. By the end of the year, there is not a man or woman in this city who if they heard of a friend of theirs talking about going to Albany on the Hudson River railroad, but would go to that person, and endeavor by all the influences they could command, to persuade that individual to keep off that road. Suppose these accidents occurred every week instead of monthly, or every day instead of every week, then you would have only 7,000 lives lost annually

on that road, if tidings had come to you every morning of an accident of a similar nature. And then what would have been done? Why, that railroad would have been torn up from its base, the iron would have been pitched into the river, the ties would have been destroyed, and the cars burned to pieces, and this community would have said: "No more cars on that road." Suppose from eight other roads the same tidings had come, there would not be a railroad in the country, for no man would venture upon a car. If there were eight such accidents from eight different roads every day in the year, there would not be so many lives lost as are destroyed by intemperance. Now these are facts; and facts like these need to be brought before the community, in order to inform the mind, touch the conscience and arouse the heart.—*Rev. Herrick Johnson.*

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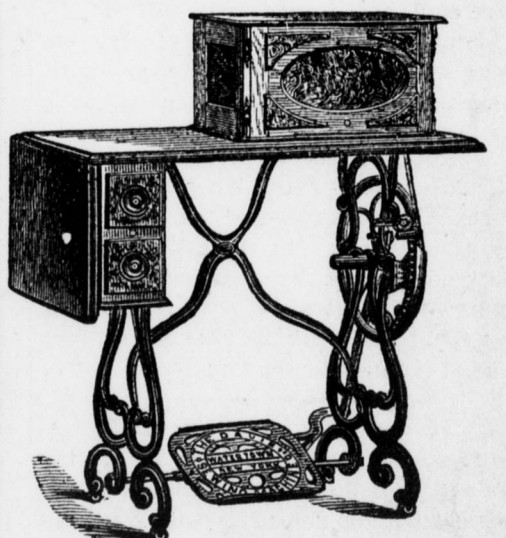
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