Written for the POST.

A Temperance Story.

BY MIGNONETTE.

One pleasant afternoon a few weeks ago, my baby-boy and I took a walk into town to see a lady who was making the children some dresses. It was a mild day in April reminding one of the coming Spring. A promise of the approaching season was felt in the air and seen in the deep blue of the sky, visible through rifts in the light clouds that tried to hide it. Here, the ground was soft and muddy, and at intervals the pavements were covered with slush left by the recent thaw, but when I looked down at the little red hood bobbing along serenely at my side, and I thought of the other precious two at home, my heart was full of sunshine for it was full of love for these dear babies and their father, and the memory of their love for us both.

On that delightful day I felt like thanking God for my happy home, a kind husband and three sweet, bright children.

In this frame of mind I called at my dressmaker's and I soon entered into a pleasant conversation with her, finding her an intelligent, companionable lady, but one who bore an unmistakable expression of deep sadness in her face. I had understood that she was a widow, living at present with her father, and when she spoke of losing a child the age of my boy, and of nursing her only remaining child, a daughter through a long illness before coming home to her father—my feelings were touched and I spoke in a sympathetic manner of her widowhood and lonely life. "Oh," said she, "I am not a widow, my trouble is tenfold worse than widowhood. My husband is still living, but far away from me. He is wedded to his evil habits. His appetite for strong drink became stronger than his love for his wife and child and that is why I, to-day, am working for strangers instead of keeping my own house, as I once did.

"Yes; Mrs., we have been away from him three years, I sometimes think we should have stayed and tried to reform him but if I failed after trying for fifteen years, I surely could do no more.

"I had to think of my daughter too, my only child, as good a girl as ever lived. How could I teach her to respect a father who was coarse and unloving toward her, in spite of her goodness? He drank on and on until our home and all we had was lost forever, then left him for my daughter's sake, more than my own; that I might give her a better education in order to fit her for self-support in the future, but my life is lonely, and Oh! Mrs ——— when I looked at you the other day in your own home, so happy with your husband and little ones, I said to myself, 'may the good Lord keep them happy and may nothing ever come between them to break up those blessed associations as husband and wife!' Nothing can ever give me back what I have lost. That man is not the man for whom I left a happy home and a free girlhood. Liquor has made him the entire opposite of what he was then and all of the powers of earth could not give them back to me. The good Father alone can do anything to reform him and we can only pray and wait."

I left her house with a saddened feeling, but with a thankful heart. Oh, how blessed are we who are not touched by the influence of the demon appetite, whose houses have escaped the withering blight and how tender and helpful should we be to those whose lives have been made shipwrecks for such cause.

All that woman can do, let us be ready to do in the cause of Temperance. If we need no help, our neighbors do, and it is the duty of every true woman to search out such neighbors and help them; even our womanly sympathy and tender heartedness toward all these in trouble will alleviate much of their grief. Let us give what we have when so much needed, not help in the shape of money, which might be considered an offense to an independent person, but work and advice and a kind word.

Some who read this may feel like censuring my friend for leaving the miserable man to his evil way. Why did she not cling to him in adversity as in prosperity and performing the whole duty of a wife and stand with him to the last? Something like this passed through my mind while the woman was talking. How can I imagine any circumstances or chain of events that would make it possible I should seperate myself from my husband, he who has come to be a part of my very being, the father of my darling children, the founder and pillar of our happy home? Yet could I sacrifice my children's happiness, yea, even endanger their lives to a drunkard's whims and caprices even through that drunkard be their miserable father?

We need forgiveness, who would dare to judge the unhappy wife, except by putting ourself in her place, in imagination. God grant us all freedom from the tyranny of evil appetite in our own homes and give us strength and influence to drive it from all other heart-hstones.

Mid-Hebrugh, Pa., May 7, 1887.

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Beaver West.—Fred Stelmling.
Centre.—Isaiah Oberlin.
Chapman.—Jonathan A. Herrold, Levi Leptchker.
Jackson.—Zeno Olit, John M. Dauberman, Morris Kelley.
Monroe.—Thomas Kessler.
Penn.—F. M. Kern, O. M. Witmer.
Perry.—John L. Kerstetter, Thomas Reichenbach, W. S. Smith.
Selinsgrove.—Henry Schoch.
Spring.—Adam Smith, David Middleswarth.
Washington.—I. B. Shirk, R. M. Teats, Geo. W. Wahburn, James Gilbert.
Union.—Philip Neitz.

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Franklin.—Isaac Beaver, Millard J. Courtney, Samuel Moyer.
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Middleburgh.—Fred Walter.
Middlecreek.—Joel Zechman, Philip Lenig, J. R. Reeder, David Hummel, Gideon Gordon, Reuben Troxle.
Monroe.—E. G. App, Thomas Hess, I N Jarret, Wm Ritter.
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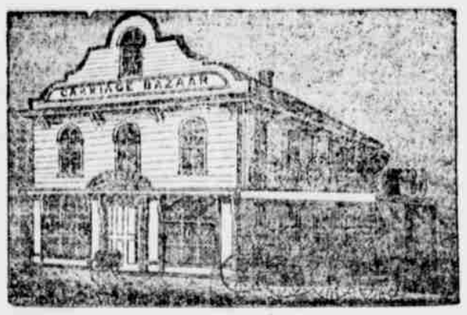

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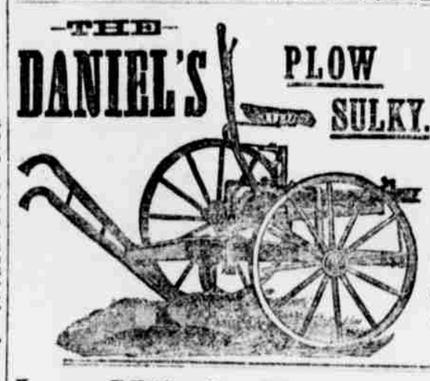

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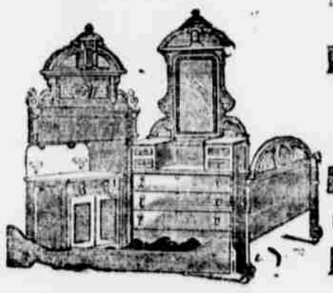

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