

When I arrived home I told my wife that I had not tasted strong drink for ten days, and had no desire to have any more. What is to be done for these poor children, said she, if we give up this house? my answer was, I am very unhappy in the trade, and although we are doing well as regards profits, I am determined to leave it off. I went to my landlord and told him he must get another tenant at once. He told me I was an honest upright man, but all his arguments and promises did not alter my determination. Several times I told him I should leave as I had taken another house, for which he paid the rent several weeks, expecting I should change my mind and stop on, but I removed my furniture, and left the publichouse. I never shall forget the first night. I seemed to be in a new world, for I had power to read and pray, but while in the alehouse I could do neither. A short time after, I knew a man that became a teetotaller, but his wife did not approve of it. Whilst at home one evening the wife had a glass of gin and water; she had also a favorite cat, which she was doatingly fond of; and whilst drinking her gin and water, she took it up, and said, "you won't be a teetotaller, will you my pussy!" thereupon tried to drench the poor dumb creature; the cat was very much irritated, and would not take it; when the wife's husband said, the cat has more sense than yourself, "and will be a teetotaller."

When I began to travel again with my papers I left home much happier than ever I did before. In distributing advertisements I was insulted daily, some threw the papers out of doors, others tore them up, or trampled them under foot, many told me I was a cheat, getting money under false pretence, although I never asked anyone to purchase medicines of me, as they were sold by druggists and booksellers in every town.

After it was known in the town that I was a teetotaller, and as I was at home so seldom, those wicked people could not spit their venom on me, so they forced it on my children; often when returning from school they were pushed into the dirt, and several times came home bleeding. Then the church-like hogs began to snort and grunt, and look at me as sour as though they lived in vinegar casks, and if possible at all times shun my company. I was not allowed to engage in prayer at the prayer meetings, and if I began a tune suitable to the hymn, I was stopped. I was very infectious among the smokers, and members belonging to the guzzling club. One preacher said to me if he was such a fool as me he would suffer his head to be chopped off; he also told me if he was such a fool as me he would cut his heart out. Several times I was asked to quietly withdraw from the society, but all the threats and malice made me stronger, and determined

to fight on in God's work. Then it was started that I was one of the worst of men, and greatest drunkards in the town. I then gave a public challenge to any person that could prove either in any degree, I would give them £5. Although many years are passed not one has claimed the offered reward. The devil is a liar, so are his children. But now I am told that I am a contrary rusty old devil. But it would be strange after fighting against his kingdom so many years that at the age of 73 years I should be a turn-coat, and join his numberless regiment, but fools will do for him what he himself would be ashamed to commit. If such were to get into heaven they would look as silly as a fox-hunting parson, if it was possible to enter; they could not sing Glory to God, but tally-ho! to the fox. The great day of judgment will prove the above. Search the scriptures for yourselves and believe the truth. If any man love the world, the love of the Father cannot be in him.

I will now give a review of my travels, but half cannot be told in so small a book allowed for the price.

The first winter I travelled, I lodged at a alehouse at Baslington, for one night, there were eight men who were employed to grub some hedge rows. I am quite sure if talking could have done a large amount of work, those men could do more than all the other men in Berkshire. What a wonderful talker is strong drink, but water does the hard work. One of these know-alls came and asked me to drink. I told him I did not need it. He abused me, took off his coat, and declared he would fight any man that would not drink beer. The landlord told him that I did not interfere with anyone and he ought to be ashamed of himself to show such bad conduct to a stranger, so after a time this fool of the devil sat down.

When at Faringdon, I started on Friday, intending to visit some villages. Upon my arriving at Little Coxwell, the rain came on so heavily that I was obliged to take shelter in a shoemaker's shop, named Kent, he told me he had been a jolly teetotaller for some years, and very much improved his circumstances during that time, but a few days ago his wicked advisers prevailed on him to take the ruinous drink, to introduce all kinds of badness into his house; but as the rain ceased he asked me to give the people a lecture. Round the village I went inviting all to come and hear me; and for one hour I stood on a grass plot warning the people against strong drink. The Sunday after I was invited again. I went with the intention of speaking from a text, but not being a public speaker I was at a loss to find a text, but the 18th verse in the first chapter of Romans caught my eye. Off I went to invite the villagers once more on the

grass plot, all were willing to attend, except one man who told me that he had heard quite enough on Friday night, but his family was no credit to smoking and drinking. The people seemed rivetted to every word. An aged man said he had heard the gospel for fifty years, but never felt the like before, and was sure it never would be forgotten by those present. A young farmer invited me to repeat my visit, telling me no one should insult me.

For a long time after I left Kintbury it was impressed on my mind to go and talk to my old friends in the street, on Sunday morning, I and my friend George Audrey, of Marlborough, were patiently listened to for an hour, showing the people the folly of spending their money on smoke and strong drink. When he left off, Charles began speaking from the 1st chapter of Romans, 18th verse. Words seemed to be presented much faster than they could be uttered, most the people gave heed to what the unlearned man said, when others said that I came for what I could get. Why! because my caps did not fit comfortable. But what did I get? I brought bread and cheese from home, eat it, and drank from the river, stood two hours in the street, walked 14 miles, reached home rather tired, but very happy that was with my pay. Some years afterwards I was at Kintbury, when I was asked to conduct an evening service, which I consented to; I took my text from the 5th chapter of Galatians, and when I came to the 21st verse I made a few remarks, as follows:—"It might be that some now present were in this chapel the Sunday previous to the Hungerford races, professing to sing the praise and glory of God, and the next week to the praise and glory of strong drink, and horse racing." Then, as though a mad bull was after them, out bolted several of my congregation. Seeing this I fired God's hot bullets all the sharper, telling them the furious dogs of earth and hell were close to the heels of those who choose ungodly diversions. In a few minutes the bullets of truth entered the guilty hearts of a few others. Up they jumped and bolted. Their old father the devil was quite alarmed. The sword of God's word cut sharper and keener, until it moved a third batch of worldly minded professors, and they were not very polite with the pew doors. Such bad behaviour plainly told on the guilty, as the speaker knew nothing about their sins. A good woman present said to me, now preach Jesus to us. My reply was, "he did not come to destroy the law but to fulfil," and we must obey it or hell will be our future home. I then gave out the hymn, 279, now in the new book, but the few that were left seemed paralysed, and it was some time before they could raise a tune.

The next week Mr. Vibert said to me, Doctor, what have you been doing at Kintbury? why, I have been told that you preached all the people out of the chapel except one old woman, and she was quite deaf and so stayed until the service was over. I am not to expose them any more, yet they say I told nothing but the truth, and although nearly 20 years have passed, it is still talked of in the village. My rule has been to try to impress God's truth home, never to be forgotten by those that heard it. Not like the skim milk, flowery college-painted preaching, that many are aiming at, and when the people complain, I don't get any good by such preachers. Give it hot and strong as Jesus did, not pleasing men or women.

I had to go a three weeks journey into Hampshire, and all the money I had was 1s. 9d., my wife said, take it all, I and the children can do better without cash than you can. I left them 9d., and started off walking. I told my Banker all the truth until I arrived at Kingsclere, there good Mrs. Sidery paid me 2s. 6d. I then started for Overton, and on the wild downs I just did thank and praise my Banker who has all the silver and gold at his command. When I got to Overton, Mr. G. Withers, my agent, paid me 11s. I distributed papers over the town, then I went on to Waltham, where I slept at Mr. Taylor's; his wife had been wishing to see me for a long time, as also had many other persons in the village; so that I took several shillings. On I went to Basingstoke, called on my agent, Mr. Hulbert, who paid me 10s. I went to the "Harrow Inn," and asked the landlady if she would allow a teetotaller to lodge there. She at once prepared tea, which I enjoyed after the fatigue of a long day's travelling. Bed-time came, and the landlady said there was a very respectable man gone to bed and I must sleep with him. As my custom was, I knelt down and asked God to take care of us through the night. In the morning my bed fellow told me that he had not slept all night. I asked him the reason, and he said, the words I uttered in my prayer so terrified him. I told him that faith in the blood of Jesus the son of God cleanseth us from all sin. Then he told me the wicked life he had lived for many years, and that his wife would not live with him. The next day I gave out papers in the villages, until I got to Alton; where I got lodgings, at a harnessmaker's. Before I went to bed I read a psalm, and prayed with the aged couple, after I got to bed I heard the poor ignorant old man rating his wife for having such a disturbing man in his house. He kept repeating all night,—he shall go, he shall go, he shall not stay here, he shall go. In the morning the good woman told me her husband had said, I was to leave, but she said, I dont

wish you to go, as you can pray in your bedroom. This woman's eyes were opened by the Wesleyan preachers in the hop room, lent by Mr. Holmes, a quaker, as there was no chapel at that time. Sunday morning I went to class, then to the public service, the minister was Mr. John Tucker. The praying, preaching, and singing, seemed all for me, still others were happy. What a joyous morning to a thirsty man. In the afternoon I spoke kindly to the poor old tradesman at my lodgings, but of course made no reference to the Friday night, but respecting his future state, and pointed out to him the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, as the only remedy whereby man can be saved from sin. After the regular service at night, many stayed to prayer meeting. What a glorious time there was praying for pardon, rejoicing in a sound hope of everlasting life with Jesus in heaven. On Monday it was spread over the town that I was a troubler in Israel, and it will be proved that the kingdom of darkness had a shaking.

About two years afterwards I visited Alton again, and went to the house where I lodged before, when the poor feeble woman said, I could not stay, but there was a woman over the way wished to see me; I went, when the good woman told me the good she received from my advice in the prayer meeting about two years before. Her husband came home, and I again read to them, and gave them to understand, "ye must be born again," afterwards I offered prayer, and went to my lodgings. The next day I saw the husband in the street, and when he saw me he tried to hide himself, but I did not know for why, but as I was leaving the town I called on the wife, who told me her husband had been quarrelling with her all night, on account of my conversation the previous night. But I was told of others that were awakened on that ever to be remembered Sunday night. It is no new policy for the devil's cronies to try to hide themselves when doing wrong. Adam felt ashamed and got into the shrubs, but God knew all that he had done. In a village, near Alton, I saw a woman on her knees scrubbing the floor. I said to her, I see you have time to clean your house, do you often on your knees ask God to give you a clean heart? Some months afterwards I saw her when she told me the above by God's help brought her to repentance and pardon. In Berkshire I called upon two old people, whom I read and prayed with. A short time afterwards a letter came to me, stating that when I saw them they were two miserable sinners, but by my shewing them God's manner of saving sinners, they both sought and found mercy; and are now both happy in Jesus. Many other similar to the above I could state, but for want of space I must leave it. Lord, keep me humble.