

M. C. T. U. NOTES.

POOR LITTLE BLOSSOM.

By Mrs. F. H. Bidwell.



"Oh, dear! I'm so tired and  
lonesome;  
I wonder why mama don't  
come?  
S'e told me to 's'ut up my  
blue eyes,  
And 'fore I waked up s'ed  
be home.

"S'e said s'e was going to see g'andma;  
S'e lives by the river so bright;  
I 'spect that my mamma's fallen in there,  
And p'raps s'e won't tum home to-night.

"I dess I 'ae a'aid to stay up here,  
W'out any fire or light;  
But Dod's lighted the lamps up in heaven;  
I see 'em all twinkling and bright.

"I dess I'll go down and meet papa;  
I know he has stopped at the store;  
It's a great pretty store, full of bottles—  
Wish he wouldn't go there no more!

"Sometimes he's so sick when he comes  
home,  
He stumbles and falls up the stair,  
And once when he comed in the parlor,  
He kicked at my poor little chair.

"And mamma was all pale and frightened,  
And hugged me close up to her breast,  
And called me her poor little Blossom,  
And—less I forgotted the rest.

"But I 'member he striked at poor mamma,  
His face was so red and so wild,  
And I 'member he striked at poor mamma,  
And hurted his poor little child.

"But I loves him, and dess I go find him;  
Perhaps he'll come home with me soon,  
And then it won't be dark and lonesome  
Waiting for mamma to come."

Out into the dark went the baby,—  
The dear little Blossom so fair,  
With eyes that were blue as the clear sky,  
With halo of golden-brown hair.

Out into the night went the baby,  
Her little heart beating with fright,  
Till the tired feet reached a gin-palace,  
All brilliant with music and light.

The little hand pushed the door open  
(Though her touch was as light as a  
breath),  
And the little feet entered the portal!  
That leads but to ruin and death.

Away down the long floor she pattered,  
The pretty blue eyes opened wide,  
Till she soled in a corner her papa,  
And the tiny feet paused at his side.

"Oh, papa!" she cried, as she reached him,  
And her voice rippled out sweet and clear,  
"I thought if I comed I should find you,  
And now I'm so glad I is here.

"The lights are so pretty, dear papa,  
And I fink that the music's so sweet,  
But I dess it's most supper-time papa,  
For Blossom wants something to eat."

A moment the beared eyes gazed wildly  
Down into the face sweet and fair,  
And then as the demon possessed him,  
He grasped at the back of a chair.

A moment,—a second,—'twas over,  
The work of the fiend was complete;  
And the poor little innocent Blossom  
Lay, broken and crushed, at his feet.

Then, swift as the light came his reason,  
And showed him the deed he had done,  
With a groan that a demon might pity,  
He knelt by the quivering form.

He pressed the pale lips to his bosom,  
He lifted the fair, golden head;  
A moment the baby lips trembled,  
Then poor little Blossom was dead.

Then the law, in its majesty, seized him  
And exacted just penalty—death;  
For only such a fiend or a madman  
Would deprive such a baby of breath.

But the man who had sold him the poison,  
That made him a demon of hell,  
Why, he must not be less respected,  
Because he is licenced to sell.

He may rob men of friends and of money,  
Send them down to predition and woe,  
But so long as he pays for his license,  
The law must protect him, you know.

God pity men, women, and children,  
Who are crushed by the Juggernaut,  
"Rum."

May press, pulpit, and platform united,  
Fight strong 'till deliverance come!

TO THE GIRLS.

By Rose Elizabeth Cleveland.

I wish some strong, bright angel  
stood before you just now while you  
read, girls, to flash before you as no  
words of mine can, the power you pos-  
sess to help or hinder the cause of tem-  
perance; to make you feel your respon-  
sibility in this matter. To shudder at  
its weight and to never cease trying to  
fulfill it. Doubtless you have heard a  
great deal of the value of your smiles;  
do you know the value of your frowns?  
I wish I could make you know the  
value of your frown, and the impor-  
tance of knowing just what to frown upon.  
What a man must do by a blow,  
a woman can do by a frown. When  
the time comes that the young man,  
who now shares his time in your society  
and the saloon, who jokes about tem-  
perance in your presence and takes a  
glass socially now and then, is made to  
feel that these things cannot be, if you  
are to be his companion at party, ride,  
or church; that good society cannot  
tolerate these things in its members; in  
short, that this kind of a man is un-  
fashionable and unpopular, then the  
Alcohol will tremble on its throne, and  
the liquor traffic will hide its cancerous  
face!

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mind from smoking cigarettes. This  
should not unfit him from continuing  
the habit.

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