

TRAGIC TEMPERANCE TALE

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***(EACH WORD STARTS WITH THE LETTER T)*

Tradition tells that two talented temperance teachers traveled to this town, trying to turn tipping toper's thoughts toward teetotalism.

They thoughtfully took task to three tattered truants, tenderly telling the tiny tots that tobacco tainted the taste, that trivial treats tended to tipping the toper's tumbler, the toper's tumbler to tipsy tantrum, tipsy tantrums to theft, to treason, to tenfold transgressions, thereon through tortuous tracks to the Tombs, threatening tribulation to those that trend the treacherous trail.

'Twas terrible! The thrilling tales those truthful temperance teachers told that thoughtless tattered trio, thinking, thereby, to turn their tarnished thoughts to themes the Theologians teach.

They told them that ten times ten thousand torments threatened those that touched the toper's toddy. That tipping tended to total thralldom, though thorny trails that took toppers to tragic termination.

Then the terrified trio told the teachers, they'd try to travel the track that tended to truthfulness – to things that trusty townsmen tolerated.

They'd try the trades! Tip thought to take the tanner's trade; Tom, the tailor's; then, thoughtfully twisting the tattered tags that trimmed Toby's threadbare trowsers, Tom tendered to the Templars the terrible truth, that "Toby's torn trowsers tickled the town-boys tremendously!"

'Twas tenderness that touched those true-hearted temperance teachers. They took the toddling tots to the tailor's, telling the talkative tradesman to "trim them tidily;" then, tastily transformed, the tractable trio tip-toed thorough-fares triumphantly!

They tripped to the town tavern to tell the tidings, tarrying there till the ticking time-piece told ten.

There the turbulent throng tipped their treacherous tumbles, till tumultuous talk turned tender thoughts topsy turvy.

Then the tempter told them to "Try that toddy. 'Twas tip top! 'Twould tickle their tongues to taste that transporting toddy."

'Tis terrible to tell this truth! Thus tempted they turned traitors to themselves!

They touched those tempting tumblers! They took that transporting toddy! Twice – thrice – they tasted that treacherous trash, then tottered through the tipsy throng till tramping toppers threateningly turned them to the thoroughfare.

'Twas twelve to the town-piece. The two tired temperance toilers turned toward tenement tranquility. They talked together, trusting that their trim, tidy trio took thoroughly to temperance teachings; thinking too, 'twas time to turn their thoughts to thriving trades. Thus thinking, they traveled towards the track that twines through the thicket, tarring there till the twelve thirty train thundered toward the tranquil town.

Then, terror telling tones told the terrible tale. To the track! To the track! That trembling thing thrown thwart the track! 'Twas Toby! Their tender Toby! Trampled tight to the torturing track! Torn to threads! 'Twas total termination to the thoughtless, thankless Toby.

The terrified town-boys trooped to the track. Tenderly they touched the tranquil Toby, trembling to think, they too, took trifling tastes, they too, traveled the treacherous trail that took Toby to his termination.

The town-talk turned to temperance; throughout the territory they told this thrilling tale.

Therefore Tip took to the tanner's trade. Tom, the tailor's. Thenceforth, true to the themes those truthful temperance teachers taught, they trudged through thrifty traffic to thriving temperate townsmen.

Toby's tiny tombstone tells the touching tale. There the tuneful thrush trills till the twilight, there tulips toss their tender tips through twining tendrils, there the townfolk tarry, to tell the transient traveler that 'twas Toby's tragic termination that turned their thoughts to temperance. Topeka 1882

