



William McGonagall	<p><b>Temperance Gems</b>  <b>By William McGonagall (1825-1902)</b></p> <p>Good people all, of every degree,          I pray, ye all be warned by me:          I advise ye all to pause and think,          And never more to taste strong drink.</p> <p>Some people do say it is good when taken in moderation,          But, when taken to excess, it leads to tribulation,          Also to starvation and loss of reputation,          Likewise your eternal soul's damnation.</p> <p>McGonagall has been widely acclaimed as the worst poet in British history. He campaigned vigorously against excessive drinking, appearing in pubs and bars to give edifying poems and speeches. These were very popular, the people of Dundee possibly recognizing that McGonagall was "so giftedly bad he backed unwittingly into genius." Six of those poems are recited here. (Summary collated from McGonagall's verse and Wikipedia by Cori Samuel.) Total running time: 00:30:10.</p> <p>1 – The Rattling Boy from Dublin – 00:04:24 - Read by Fox in the Stars          2 – A Tribute to Mr. Murphy and the Blue Ribbon Army – 00:04:00 - Read by Fox in the Stars          3 – The Destroying Angel or The Poet's Dream – 00:05:49 - Read by Fox in the Stars          4 – The Troubles of Matthew Mahoney – 00:04:37 - Read by Peter Yearsley          5 – The Demon Drink – 00:05:47 - Read by Alana Jordan          6 – A New Temperance Poem, in Memory of my Departed Parents – 00:05:33 - Read by Alana Jordan</p> <p>This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit <a href="http://librivox.org">librivox.org</a>.</p> <p>Cover picture by <i>Adriaen van Ostade (1680)</i>. Copyright expired in US, Canada, EU and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by Janette Brown. This design is in the public domain.</p>	Temperance Gems
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