

## INTRODUCTION.

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As some of the so-called temperance party regard me as opposed to the suppression of drunkenness because I did not aid the recent movement in the county of Halton in support of "the Canada Temperance Act," I feel myself under the necessity of placing my views before the public. While the contest was in progress, mutterings of dissatisfaction with my position on the subject came to my ears. I was warned of serious results if I did not show some favour to the views advocated by prohibitionists, nor was the caution altogether an empty threat, for a respectable member of my session, and some two or three of his friends have not attended church since the vote was taken on the Scott Act. It is but justice to say of these friends, that they are regarded as worthy Christian people, and that, though carried away so far by the sophistries of extreme abstainers, I look upon them as worthy people still. Though their present alienation and withdrawal from fellowship with their brethren in the public worship of God are painful, yet I hope that on mature consideration, Christian love will prevail. For the sake of these respected brethren, and others, that may be similarly tempted to schism, I publish my views on temperance, so that they may see that my position can be supported by some reasonable considerations, and that the principles advocated by prohibitionists may not be so sound as supposed, nor the total abstinence pledge altogether agreeable to the word of God.

A few days before the vote on "the Scott Act" was taken, I received a letter from one who said that he was a reformed drunkard, and I was therein warned of the remorse I would endure on some future day unless I would change my