

## TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE,

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE &amp; NEWS.

PLEDGE.--We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use Intoxicating Liquors as a Beverage, nor Traffic in them; that we will not provide them as an article of Entertainment, nor for persons in our Employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

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## The Temperance Island.

The gentle Island and the genial soil,  
The friendly hearts, the feasts without a toil,  
The courteous manners, but from nature caught,  
The wealth unhoarded and the love unbought.—BYRON.

About sixty years ago, a number of English merchants interested in the prosperity of our West India possessions, fitted out an expedition with the view of introducing the bread fruit tree into the islands of those seas. The ship *Bounty*, laden with the plants, and under the command of Lieutenant Bligh, was on her way from Otaheiti. Exasperated by the overbearing conduct of the commander, Fletcher Christian, the mate, assisted by several of the inferior officers and men, seized the commander, and forcing him along with nineteen others into a small boat, set them adrift upon the wide ocean. After suffering the greatest privations, and performing a voyage of four thousand miles, they came safely to anchor in Coupang Bay, where they were received with great hospitality. No sooner was the Government made acquainted with this act of piracy and mutiny, than the *Pandora* frigate was despatched in search of the offenders. Although this vessel was wrecked, the captain succeeded in apprehending fourteen of the mutineers; four of whom were drowned in the wreck and ten brought safe to England; three of whom were afterwards hung on board the ship *Brunswick*, in Portsmouth harbour.

Upwards of twenty years had passed away, and the eventful story of the *Bounty* had ceased to occupy a thought in the public mind. About this time an American trading vessel, chancing to approach one of those numerous islands in the Pacific, against whose steep and iron-bound shores the ocean continually breaks, discovered the mutineer's retreat. Interesting as was this discovery, it attracted little notice. However, in the year 1814, as two frigates, the *Briton* and the *Tagus*, were cruising, they approached the island home of this romantic people. Captain Pison of the latter ship, supposing he had made a new discovery, ran in for the land. To his surprise he perceived a few huts neatly built amidst plantations laid out with considerable taste. Presently a few natives were observed approaching with their canoes on their shoulders, and immediately one of the little vessels darting through the heavy surf and making for the ships. Greater still was the surprise when, on coming alongside, the voyagers were hailed in good English, 'Won't you heave us a rope?' The first that sprung on deck was a youth of noble bearing, and son of the late Fletcher Christian by an Otaheitian mother. On inquiry, it appeared that after setting Captain Bligh and his party adrift, the father of this youth and leader of the mutiny took the *Bounty* to Otaheiti, where a great part of the crew left her; part of whom were afterwards apprehended, while he and eight others, who each took wives, and six natives, shortly afterwards proceeded to Pitcairn's Island, ran the ship ashore, and broke her up.

In consequence of the gross oppression to which the mutineers subjected the Otaheitians, revolt succeeded revolt, until the sole survivors consisted of a man named Smith, and eight or nine women with several children. This man subsequently assumed the name of John Adams, and became patriarch of the colony. At the time of the arrival of the *Briton* and the *Tagus*, the inhabitants of the island had increased to nearly fifty persons. The young men were finely formed, but most whimsically dressed, some having long coats without trowsers, and others trowsers without coats, and others again waistcoats without either. The young women were singularly handsome and modestly attired. Both engaged in the labours of cultivating the field, and attending to the pigs and poultry. The men are stated to be from five feet eight inches to six feet high, and of great muscular strength, and accustomed to perform with ease feats of great prowess. In the water they are as much at home as on land, frequently swimming the circuit of their island, which is a distance of at least seven miles. Their diet being of the simplest character, and their only beverage being water, they are subject to few diseases. The little village of Pitcairn is described as built on a piece of ground sloping towards the sea, and consisting of five houses, that of Adams occupying a prominent position, and the whole concealed from view by banana and cocoa trees.

John Adams being a man of a pious disposition, set himself diligently to the work of educating the children. Although on his landing on the island he could only read, he afterwards acquired the art of writing, framed a code of laws, and celebrated marriage and baptism according to the rites of the Church of England. The only books preserved from the *Bounty* were the Bible and the Prayer book; and aided by these, they met regularly on Sabbath for the observance of divine worship. A whaling ship having touched at the island, one of the sailors, named John Buffet, was so enamoured of the romantic life of its inhabitants that he resolved to join them. In this person John Adams found a congenial spirit and an able coadjutor, cheerfully he assumed the office of teacher and minister; and so blessed were their joint labours, that the little colony soon became characterised by a higher degree of religion, order and morality, than what obtains in the most privileged states.

Years passed away, till in 1825 Captain Beechy in the *Blossom*, bound on a voyage of discovery, paid them a visit. He and his party were received with a cordial welcome. The table was spread in the house of Christian, son of the chief mutineer, and grace was emphatically said by John Buffet. One thing struck the visitors, the women were only permitted to take a place at the table in the event of there being room. On the custom being called in question, it was defended on the ground that, as man was made before woman, he was entitled to be served first. At night comfortable beds were prepared for the party, and they were lulled to sleep by the melody of the evening hymn; which after the lights were put out, was chanted by the whole family