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“ I NEVER TAKE ANY THING TO HURT MYSELF.”

A Prize Essay. By the Rev. R. Pedcn, Amherstburgh.

Acts xvi. 28—“ Do thyself no harm.”

Heb. 13, 16—“ To do good forget not.”

Such is the language of many in excusing themselves from entire abstinence from intoxicating drinks—they never take any thing to hurt themselves. It may be that this little tract may fall into the hands of some who use this apology, and to such we would affectionately submit a few considerations.

First,—Are you sure that in using intoxicating drinks, as you now do, that you never take any thing to hurt yourself? It is not necessary to suppose that you use them either very frequently, or what may be called immoderately; but even using them, as you may do, only occasionally and in small quantities, it would still be hazardous for you to affirm that you have never taken any thing to hurt yourself. The fact that the temperance reformation has disclosed the pernicious and delusory nature of these drinks is so well known and so generally admitted, grounded, as its testimony is, on the most careful induction of facts, and confirmed by the experience of millions of teetotalers, that you may at least see occasion to review the judgment which you have expressed. In the Report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, to inquire into the evils of intemperance, it was stated that the highest medical authorities, examined in great numbers before the Committee, are uniform in their testimony, “ that ardent spirits are absolute poisons to the human constitution—that in no case whatever are they necessary, or even useful, to persons in health—that they are always, in every case, and to the smallest extent, deleterious, pernicious, or destructive, according to the proportions in which they may be taken into the system. (Par. Rep. p. 4.) If this testimony be true, will you aver that even in the moderate way in which you now use them, you never take any thing to hurt yourself?

But we are well aware that some who make use of such language