

The primary force of the word, as has been already stated, consists of moderation. But to adapt it to our present requirements, and to clothe it in a garb suited to our wants and necessities, we must divest it of all contingency, and behold it in the unqualified sense of *total abstinence from every thing that can intoxicate*. It will then become the most important word in our vocabulary, as it is the first on the motto of our noble *Institution*.

Temperance then is the important subject with which we are about to deal; whose Temple we must guard from profanity, and whose Altar must be held inviolate. Temperance is the word that ought to be stereotyped on every tongue, and indelibly engraven on every heart. Temperance is the lofty barrier against the myriad evils of intoxication; and behind which repose the blessings of political prosperity, the fruits of social enjoyment, and the unalloyed rewards of religious truth. Herein is a safe retreat from the abominable vices that have so long desolated the fairest regions of the earth, and tarnished for so many ages the noblest *work* of God's ineffable creation; and retarded for nearly nineteen centuries the diffusion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and perverted the truth of his divine origin.

The history of intemperance affords us solemn and awful warnings against the use of intoxicating beverages; and points out on every page the frailties of man, and his proneness to evil; as well as his ingenuity and perseverance in the investigation and pursuit of knowledge, as a means of gratifying his sensual appetites.

The earliest records of drunkenness are to be found in the sacred Scriptures. In the 9th chapter of Genesis we read how "Noah planted a vineyard, and he drank of the