

APPENDIX A.

A PLEA FOR THE ORDER.

BY A. M. P.

The founders of this Society, "feeling that it is both natural and reasonable that those who have common rights to protect, common interests to defend, and common objects to obtain, should act together and know each other, resolved to form an Association for the protection of themselves and their fellow-beings from the many evils of Intemperance—for the securing of mutual assistance when needed—and for the elevation of their intellectual and moral characters; and being aware that through want of that organization which secures concentrated effort, the benevolent objects of Patriots and Christians are often frustrated, and the best and noblest exertions for the public weal defeated," they have adopted a Constitution for the good government of the Society.

The British Templar Association is composed of persons desirous of supporting, to the utmost of their power, the principles and practice of Temperance, and anxious to obey the laws of the land, as the duty of every good citizen; willing also to watch over each other in sickness and in health, and remonstrate with those who may wander from the paths of rectitude and sobriety, and otherwise to promote such laudable and benevolent purposes as may tend to the due ordering of Religion and the progress of the great moral reform—Temperance. Our purposes, plans, and movements are based upon the PLEDGE AND OBLIGATIONS, relying for the fulfilment of them on the honour of each member, as individuals responsible to both man and their Creator.

The Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Society, are not only open to members of the Association, but are within the reach of all those who wish to examine them. There is no reserve in the Order, except the signs, symbols, passwords, and grips, and also the solemn and sublime admonitions that do not reach the ear of any but those who are counted worthy of membership, accompanied by the necessary injunction that the affairs of the Society be not spoken of in the presence of those who are not members. Some may call ours a Secret Society. True it is; and so far from being a crime, we claim that it is a recommendation. These mysteries are essential to the proper working of the institution, the recognition of the members, and the prevention of intrusion and imposture from strangers and enemies; and the Ceremonies we indulge in are those that give dignity and impressiveness to the Pledge and Obligations taken, which are sensible in purport and appropriate in conception, and tend to show us our position to mankind. The British Templar Association lays no claim to exclusive Temperance; but it admits no person within its pale whose principles are not, during the time of membership, temperate, and who does not sustain a good moral character. In short, the great characteristic of the Society can be summed up in the great principles of our Order—"Faith, Hope and Charity." Upon these three pillars rests the structure of our Association, planted in the broad national field of British Liberty, with Temperance and Loyalty for its emblems.

In many places where the true nature of British Templarism is not properly known, its designs and objects have by some been misunderstood, and by others misrepresented. On account of the name it bears—being connected with one particular nation—some are apt to suppose that its sphere is necessarily confined, not reflecting that it is the duty of every good citizen to support and maintain the institutions of his native or adopted country. The