

PREFACE.

THE writer of these pages deems it necessary to inform the reader that they were written in the British Provinces of New Brunswick, with a design to promote the prosperity and advancement of Religion, and the noble and divine cause of Temperance.

It is to be lamented when so much has been said and done, by the friends of temperance, to expose the innumerable evils which result from intemperance in all the diversified forms of degradation, wretchedness and suffering in which they are daily witnessed, that an institution which has and still is accomplishing so much good, in every country, where its principles have gone into operation, should not have been more generally received and acted upon, by all who feel interested in the welfare and happiness of mankind,—but more particularly by those who profess to be the zealous advocates of civil and religious liberty.

As an individual, the writer candidly admits that he cannot reconcile the existence and permanent security of liberty in any country, with the existence of intemperance, because they are in their natures antagonistic agents, and are seen to be so in their influences and effects in every community.

The unholy influence of intemperance must always act in direct opposition to reason, justice and virtue, and to every principle which imparts dignity and worth to the character of man; nor have I any hesitation in asserting that every individual who is enslaved by this unmanly vice, is acting a part which tends to the subversion of the sacred principles of liberty.

It may be necessary for me to remark, that the appearance of these well intended pages before the public is principally to be attributed to the suggestions of friends in New Brunswick, for whom the writer entertains the warmest friendship.

JOSEPH SPRATT

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