

people, completed the destruction commenced by her powerful rival in Africa, and the Mistress of the world, after a reign of nearly fifteen centuries, shared the fate of Assyria and Macedon, the last glimmer of science and of moral influences was extinguished, and all mankind immersed in Tartan gloom !

"Never since the ante-deluvian age, had ignorance, superstition and credulity, so completely degraded the human race, as during the memorable, and appropriately styled, '*dark ages*.'

"It seemed as if the over-ruling Power had withdrawn the last check to the baser passions, and left the earth to the government of the prince of darkness, aided by his able coadjutors in human form. Every restraint of law and reason was entirely disregarded, and anarchy and confusion usurped the place of liberty and order.

"The sun then as now, lit the East and the West,
Gilding tree-top and billow, and hillock and glen ;
But slowly and sadly he sank to his rest,
As he wept o'er the crimes and follies of men."

And what was true of Rome, was true also at that time, to a very great extent, of the other nations of the Old World. And if such an institution as the "Independent Order of Rechabites," or the "Order of the Sons of Temperance," existed, where was its influence on those nations? and where I ask, is the historian who has followed down this Order, from its origin to the present time? If such an institution has existed for ages and centuries past, it has, like the pale moon-beam, of yesterday evening, left no trace of its being behind.

We pretend not that the origin of *our Order* is *ancient*, but, that it is *honorable*, no one acquainted with it will deny. We admit not, that it is a branch of the far-famed *Illumini* of France and Germany, an institution than which no other on earth has made a more corrupting influence, both in the Old and New World.

It is an offspring of a kingly government, it comes not across the broad Atlantic, it was not transplanted from a foreign soil.

Our own beloved country gave it birth—our own beloved land will cherish it. It is an offspring which she owns, and which is destined to bless the parent as no other moral institution of the kind has ever yet done. And for all this we love it yet the more—we love it for its American origin—we love it for its American character; and, in the language of a distinguished member of the Order, the Rev. Lyman Beecher of Cincinnati, I can say, that "I bless God for the day which made me a Son of Temperance."

But admitting all we claim for the Order thus far, the objector asks, finally—"Is it possible to accomplish by the organization all that is proposed and promised?"

We answer, unhesitatingly, it is, and even more; and, in giving this affirmative answer, we do not forget that our organization proposes the rescue of the entire world from the reign of Alcohol.

I am well aware that such a declaration, from the pen of one who occupies the position of your humble author, has more the appearance of pedantry, than sound deductions from logical reasonings. But I

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