

THE LIFE BOAT.

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No. 1.

Introductory Remarks.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE LIFE BOAT.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS,—With an honest desire to aid you in your warfare against the most formidable and ruinous of the many vices which prevail in the world, I have consented to assume the charge of this modest little Magazine. It is intended, as you may have observed in the PROSPECTUS, to array itself against the causes which promote intemperance. These causes I hold to be primarily the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks; for while it may with propriety be said that the usages of society contribute to the production of intemperance, yet these usages or customs are the effects legitimately flowing from the manufacture and sale. I am quite aware that some one will immediately turn round and say, that the production of these liquors is consequent upon the demand which the community makes for them. But a single remark will settle the question; and as I hold it always wise to put the saddle upon the right horse, we must at starting endeavor to find out which is the right horse: it is then clear to me, that where men have never known ardent spirits the want of them is not felt. In such a condition of society *the want would never*

be felt; therefore, in order to create the want, the very first step must be the introduction of the liquors. I think you will all agree with me. Now then, if the want does not exist where the drinks are unknown, it becomes the business of those who contend for liberty to make and to sell, to prove that their introduction is a benefit. If they can do this, we must yield; if they cannot, then we are bound to use all our endeavors to prevent both the manufacture and the sale.

The Temperance Reformation is now acknowledged to be "a great fact," and we trust it will soon be a greater one still. The signs of the times in reference thereto are of the most cheering character. It will be my care hereafter to produce in the pages of the LIFE BOAT a brief but comprehensive account of the rise, progress, and prospects of this great and good enterprise. At present I intend to give you my own ideas of the aspect it presents to the world.

Once upon a time, and within my recollection, the temperance idea as exhibited by the total abstinence pledge was deemed senseless, ridiculous, immoral, unscriptural, &c., and