

exist. Although irresistibly forced to this conclusion, it is nevertheless the manifest duty of all good citizens to use such means as are within their reach, of a moral kind, and for the liberty to use which they have not to apply to any legislative body for the suppression of this vice. It is with this view that I present in this little tract the claims of an organization which, since its formation, has proved most effectual in the salvation of the drunkard, and whose blessings are still felt in many a family circle. The Temperance Reformation is still, comparatively speaking, in its infancy; it is not fifty years since it first shed its benignant rays upon a fallen race, and if any require evidence of its blessed character, and of the divine approbation which has ever attended its workings, they have but to look to its mighty effects for the proof. The first movement has been generally known as the "wine pledge," its votaries abstaining from the use of all spirituous liquors, but continuing, the use of the milder beverages, such as wine and beer. It was, however, discovered that "wine is a mocker;" the poor victim could sink into a dishonorable grave with the wine bottle for his companion, as well as he could with the brandy bottle; so, in 1826, the total abstinence pledge, as we now have it, was introduced, and it was discovered that the only safeguard was to discard the monster altogether, and in any or every shape label him with the brand of infamy, and the soubriquet of poison. It is worthy of remark that the movement at this time was directed solely against the moderate use of intoxicating liquors. The hope of reclaiming the confirmed drunkard was not thought of; he was believed—a gloomy belief truly—to be beyond the pale of salvation, and it was hoped that, by influencing the moderate drinkers, the vice of drunkenness would cease with its present victims, and the world would shortly be emancipated from the slavery of alcohol. Such a set of principles and measures, however, could not fail of making converts even from the ranks of drunkards, and the consequence was that a new movement, small and