

Mr. President, and my Christian Friends,

I am happy in having an opportunity this evening of meeting my friends of Horton, in the cause of Temperance, and greatly rejoiced to hear, from my respected friend, and your worthy Secretary, that so many of the inhabitants of this little village, have been enlisted on the side of this good cause: but, sir, my joy would have been greatly increased, could I have been informed, that, their names had graced the column reserved for those who embrace the entire abstinence side of this great question, believing as I do most sincerely, that, it is the only system which can possibly effect the mighty object which the friends of Temperance have in view, namely, the EXTERMINATION OF DRUNKENNESS. To this system, I have had the honor of being attached for several years; and this having been the first opportunity I have ever had of delivering my sentiments on this subject in Horton, I crave the indulgence of the meeting, while I shall advert to some of the reasons which first induced me to favor, and adopt this system.

1st. I could not conceive that intoxicating liquors, considered as a COMMON BEVERAGE, were a NECESSARY of life; that they were of ANY USE WHATEVER, to the mental or physical energies of man; that they could operate as a SAFE-GUARD against the intensity of heat or cold; or ADMINISTER much, IF ANY, real strength to the human system. I was brought to this conclusion from the fact, that, as far as my information extends, the original inhabitants of Great Britain never used them in that way; that the American Indians, the aborigines of this country, were a hardy athletic race, and felt no need of this artificial stimulus; that the Pilgrim Fathers of New England, I mean the first settlers from England to America, were abstemious to a proverb, and were never surpassed for physical or mental activity and strength. They endured unparalled hardship and sufferings, with the utmost constancy and perseverance; and regarded the