

## STRICTURES, &C.

### TO THE CANDID PUBLIC,

Should an invading foreign foe madly dare to cross our frontier boundary and murder, maim, and plunder, and otherwise maltreat our countrymen and friends, and attempt to drag others into hopeless captivity, what excitement and alarm would very properly obtain at once, throughout the whole community! The fearful tidings would fly as on the wings of the wind! Solemn assemblies would be promptly convened—Voluntary associations would be extensively formed—the entire mass of human intelligencies would be on the alert, and those persons who displayed the most honest zeal and made the greatest sacrifices would be justly esteemed as the *best friend of the country*.

Under such circumstances there would be little danger of incurring the charge of fanaticism or undue excitement. On the contrary, every person who should be found *unexcited* would be both considered and treated as *criminally* indifferent to the National weal, if not as very traitors in the Nation's bosom.

But comparatively how very trifling would be the amount of real evil resulting from any such invasion, when contrasted with the depredations committed on society by Alcoholic Drinks! To you, I need not enter into the details. It is now admitted (what it would indeed be weakness to deny) that no War was ever waged, half so barbarous—so destructive of property, of morals, of liberty, of peace, of purity, of happiness, and of life,—none so extensive and unrelenting, as is the Alcoholic crusade. The Army is well nigh innumerable—its progress is marked with suffering, crime and blood, while desolation and death follow in its train. The subjects of its fearful but inhuman spoliations and butcheries are our own friends, kindred and fellow beings, and their interests personal, social, pecuniary and spiritual, present, future, and eternal; while anguish and loss, trouble and disgrace, more or less, are inflicted upon all, at the same time. Is it then to be wondered at, if the *public* should become alarmed? if they should concert mea-