

The goodness of my cause refreshes me. Every new sentence—every returning effort—inspire me with fresh courage! Why should it not be so? Is not truth on our side? Have we not disinterested motives to urge us on? Does not suffering Humanity rise up from its degradation and bless our endeavours? Does not Conscience add its approval? Does not Religion call to us to go on? Does not the *Father and Fountain of all good* crown our efforts with a blessing?

The position I now lay down is: it is our duty to adopt and practice *Total Abstinence* from intoxicating liquor.

1. SELF PRESERVATION makes it duty.—Begin the use of a beverage that intoxicates; take it by the moderate measure of just one glass after dinner, or before you retire to sleep; swallow a portion of this poison for any reason—and you do not know, neither can any one foretell the consequences. How often has one glass sealed the ruin of the drinker? It has riveted the young, and the old, the professing christian and the infidel, the judicious and the unwary, fast in the chains of drunkenness! The contingency of commencing the use of intoxicating liquor is such, that the first law of nature—the law of *self preservation*, forbids you to touch, taste, or handle the deadly poison!

Take a striking proof of what I here affirm. You may read the story in the anecdotes of the London Tract Society. A young mechanic was tempted to begin the use of intoxicating liquor. Other temptations came with it. They of course occupied his thoughts even in his sleeping hours. One night he dreamed that in a state of intoxication he fell from the top of the stairs—and died and went immediately to hell! It was a subterraneous cavern; thronged with an assemblage of beings clad in dark garments, carousing. He said to himself, all that I used to hear of this place is false. It is just the place for me! “You are all happy”—said he to one of those next him. At this, they uncovered their breasts and showed him a mass of *livid flame*. Horrified, he begged to get away from them on any terms: with difficulty he obtained permission to retire, on condition, that he should return that day twelve month. He awoke—it was but a dream. He communicated his feelings to a neighbouring clergyman, and the

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