

1853

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## ESSAY

ON THE

### THE ORDER OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

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THAT intemperance is an evil, no one will for a moment pretend to deny. That it is one of the direst evils that has ever befallen mankind, will be equally admitted. Dire in its effects on the social condition of man, on his religious prosperity, and on his political relations. Every position in which he may be placed is alike open to the ravages of the great destroyer. Like most evils, it is progressive in its character. Without powerful safeguards to protect the community from its evils, soon the whole fabric of society would be engulfed within its blood-stained folds, and the world would bow beneath the iron yoke of a fearful despotism. Viewing intemperance in this light—and the reflecting mind can view it in no milder light—it is all important that steps should be taken by the friends of humanity throughout the world to stay its devastations. The philanthropist of every land has for the last half-century been proposing and carrying out moral schemes, having for their object the reclamation of the drunkard and the suppression of intemperance. Some of these have succeeded well; others not so well; but all have to a certain extent failed to accomplish their benevolent intention, owing to the many temptations which have been been thrown around the reformed inebriate, temptations presenting a formidable aspect, shielded as they are by the state's broad signet, and having legality's broad shield thrown around to sustain and protect them, and which must ever continue to exercise the most baneful influence, while that great moral cancer, the liquor traffic, is permitted to

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