

with a mystery which no man has ever penetrated ; every family circle is a secret society, and the man who violates the secrecy of the family, is unworthy of the confidence of the community. Our Order is in the same sense a secret Society, but it is not so in the ordinary and offensive sense of that term. An eminent writer on this subject, says—"A secret Society, in its truly offensive import, is one whose objects of pursuit are secret and hidden from the public, and whose principles are often so impure, and aim so directly at the overthrow of all good government, that it becomes necessary for such a Society, in self-defence, to conceal not only its principles, but also its designs and objects." Such were some of the secret Societies in France and Germany ; and such, too, were those in that unfortunate country Ireland. But I would ask the reader, can any of those things be charged against the Order of the Sons of Temperance ? can any one pretend for a moment that we are a secret Society in any such import ? Assuredly not. Our principles are well known ; our banner has been unfurled, and floats manfully in the breeze ; and the great design of our institution is so prominent, that all who walk may read. "The rescue of the world from the reign of Alcohol," is our only object ; and in order the more effectually to bring about this glorious result, we have adopted certain forms, simple in themselves, yet calculated to effect an immensity of good. But to our secrets. The great secret of our Order is the pass-word, to which some persons would fain attach some mysterious influence. It is simply, however, the key to the outside door of a man's house, adopted to shield us from the presence of the vicious and unprincipled, to confer a benefit and privilege on the initiated, and thus render our Order more effective in the reclamation of the inebriate. Our pass-word enables Divisions to discriminate between the worthy and the unworthy, to preserve themselves free from the contamination of intemperance, and thus bound together in the bonds of Temperance, Fidelity, and Brotherly Love, each becomes a shield to the other, and all to the

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