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ADDRESS

OF

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE

WITH AN APPENDIX.

PREFACE.

The reader of the following pages is informed that on the third of July, 1838, a Convention was held in Columbia, composed of delegates from Temperance Societies in different parts of the State of South Carolina, instructed by their several associations to form a State Society for the promotion of Temperance. The Convention was duly organized, and the Hon. Chancellor Johnson was elected its President, and G. T. SNOWDEN, its Secretary. After a full consideration of the object which called the Convention together, it was unanimously agreed that it was now expedient to organize a State Temperance Society. A Society was accordingly formed, by the adoption of a Constitution, and the election of officers. The Constitution of the Society, and the journal of the Convention, will be found at the close of these pages. The object of the Society is to form a bond of union between the several local Societies, by which they may mutually strengthen and encourage each other in their efforts to resist the use of intoxicating drinks, those destroyers of domestic peace and civil liberty. It is hoped that great good will result from the annual meetings of the Society, attended as they are designed to be, by delegates from local institutions in all parts of the State, and also from the various means which will be adopted for the extension of information on the subject of Temperance. The Society will aim to obtain the services of some well qualified agent or agents, who will visit different parts of the State for the purpose of communicating information and exciting attention to the great evils and proper uses of Intemperance. It will also be the aim of the Society to procure the publication and circulation of such temperance documents and journals, as shall be best suited to produce a good effect in this community, and be adapted to our wants, while they avoid all expressions and sentiments of a dangerous tendency.

Having given you a brief account of the plan and objects of the State Society, we invite your attention to the following address, prepared for the Society by the Rev. Dr. HAZELIUS, of the Baptist Theological Seminary, located at Lexington.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

Those occurrences within the limits of our own State, or within those of the American Union, which are calculated to exert an influence for weal or woe upon the community, ought not and cannot be viewed by us with indifference. The era, in which we live, is one of great excitement. Institutions, venerable for their age and supposed usefulness, are overthrown; and a conviction appears to pervade the world that there is a wrong somewhere, and that the happiness of mankind requires that a change should take place. Frequently, however, desolation compensates her work ere time is granted for reflection; and instead of new and substantial institutions, adapted to bless the present and future ages, the ruins of the old surround us on every side. Not a few of those fabrics, attempted to be raised, and towards which the eyes of the world were directed with high expectations, have, like the heaven threatening tower of Babel, crumbled into dust. And it now appears, as if the world were to try the experiment, whether it is preferable to live among the ruins of ancient institutions, exposed to the attacks of beasts of prey, or in houses, solid enough in themselves, but affording, perhaps, less elbow room than the uneasy spirit of the age demands. We doubt not but this spirit is correct in the supposition that the happiness of mankind requires a change; but we are also convinced that the mere destruction of ancient landmarks, is no better calculated to secure our happiness, than if we expected to find comfort in the burning sands of Sahara, or the ruins of Thebes or Carthage. It is, however, not our intention, fellow citizens, on the present occasion, to point out to you those changes which we deem desirable for the happiness of our State and Republic, but we think we shall have gained much for the promotion of the public and private weal, if we succeed in convincing you of the necessity of one change, which is, that you, as a community, should come forward to the support of temperance.

Fellow citizens! the angel of destruction, whose name is INTemperance, has so done his work, that his ravages must be apparent to us all. Let us stay his hand, and let us endeavor to find more comfort in the premises of the angel of peace, than in the desolations occasioned by the enemy of our happiness. The society, in whose name we address you, firmly believes, that intemperance is as much opposed to your prosperity as temperance is the defence of all that is dear to you. We are associated for the promotion of this cause, which, in thousand individual instances, at least, has restored the father to his family, the lost son to his mourning parents, and from which we hope the regeneration of our country and the world. We therefore invite you to cooperate with us, since our course is suited to promote the best interests of our State and Country—is the sole guarantee of our free institutions, and of the happiness of our children. Your self interest, your patriotism, your philanthropy, your moral sense, and the love of your children, unite with us in this invitation. They individually and jointly call upon you, to perpetuate the blessings of morality, civilization, and rational liberty in the land, by embracing the cause of temperance.

With these views before you, your fellow citizens of the State Temperance Society intreat you to pause, at least, before you pronounce a hasty judgment against the cause which we uphold and cherish. We beseech you to consider the important subject in all its bearings, and not to suffer your mind to be warped by the enemies of temperance, who are also the destroyers of your peace, your liberty, and your happiness. To assist you in forming a correct judgment, is our sincere desire; and this we hope to effect by giving you a candid statement of the reasons which have induced us to engage in the support of temperance. We have not formed our society because we feared that we should become the slaves of intemperance unless we assumed a solemn pledge to the contrary; but we have united ourselves for the support of temperance, because the history of our country, as well as our own experience, has taught us, that intemperance has ruined and is continually ruining thousands and ten thousands of families, by destroying their fairest prospects, their peace, and their happiness; that strong drinks have brought hundreds of thousands to poverty and disgrace; that intemperance has imposed a tax on our citizens, heavier than we should have to pay were we to undertake the gradual discharge of the national debt of Great Britain; that thirty millions of dollars per year are now insufficient for the support of the paupers and criminals whom the intoxicating cup has brought into this condition; a sum which, if expended for internal improvements, would cause agriculture, commerce and manufactures to flourish, and render us perfectly independent of all foreign nations. We are resolved to support temperance, because many of us lament the ruin of children, of husbands and brothers, whose talents and virtuous principles in early years had excited in our bosoms high expectations of their future respectability and usefulness, but whom we now behold degraded, wretched and impoverished, with scarcely any hopes of their regeneration, merely because they have yielded to the temptation of the dram-shop. To save those who can be saved from the galling and destructive yoke of this bondage, we are united as a band of brethren, and desire to direct the favorable attention of all parents, wives, brothers, sisters and husbands to this important subject, so that the united voice of the land may be raised and heard in the cause of temperance.

You will probably reply to this our appeal, that we have given you mere assertions; that ill-grounded, imaginary fears, have caused us to see dangers where

none exist, or that we consider them far greater than they really are; and that our assertions could never be supported by facts.

Fellow Citizens! Though we are not vain enough to suppose that we shall be able to say any thing new on this interesting subject, yet we do hope that we can give you such proofs of our assertions as will convince every impartial mind of their truth; and our only difficulty arises from the task of selecting from the mass of evidence, and not from a want of it. If we thus are able to redeem our pledge, may we not hope, from your patriotism, your love of order, and your enlightened zeal for those institutions for which your fathers bled, and which to leave as a sacred inheritance to you and your posterity, they neither shunned the horrors of the dungeon, nor death on the field of battle, nor on the scaffold, that, with an ardor similar to that which animated them in the days of our glorious revolution, you will support the principles which can alone preserve those precious privileges to you and your posterity, which your ancestors purchased with their blood.

Dr. PALEY remarks, that "mankind must live in continual alarm for the fate of their friends and dearest relations, when the restraints of religion and morality are withdrawn." We would ask an enlightened community, whether these restraints are not completely withdrawn in a state of inebriation? Every family, therefore, in which an habitual or an occasional drunkard is found, has to be in continual alarm for the fate of at least some of its friends and relatives. Are there not a large number of families in our land who live in such alarm? Are there not thousands of fathers and mothers who spend their days in grief and sorrow, and their nights in painful watchings, because they know one or more of their children to be on this downward road to ruin? To them the bed has not been a place of repose; to them the family altar has given no consolation, for whilst they remembered their beloved offspring in that solemn hour, they either feared or knew that one or the other of the pledges of their love was spending his precious time in the dram-shop or at the gaming table. Are there not many wives, and, oh shame! must it be said, are there not also many husbands, lamenting the loss of every restraint of religion and morality in their companions? Dark and gloomy are their prospects! They feel that the benevolent designs of God in the institution of the marriage covenant have been frustrated in their union; their marriage bond has become an unbearable yoke, and poverty and wretchedness await them and their children! But does the evil stop here? Is the devouring spirit satiated with having prostrated and destroyed private happiness? No! he is now engaged in undermining the pillars of our political fabric! Or do you suppose, that our republican institutions can be perpetuated, when three hundred thousand votes may be purchased for one gill of whiskey the vote? Or is this not so?

Fellow Citizens! The appalling fact has been ascertained, that there are more than 300,000 habitual drunkards in the United States; and will these men, who disregard their private interest and happiness, be conscientious in advancing the public weal? Again, look at the statistics of intemperance laid before the Legislature of Massachusetts at its last session. According to that document, the number of paupers in some of the larger towns, was 7,342; of whom 5,148 had been reduced to poverty and dependence by intemperance. The aggregate number of paupers in the State was 14,099; of whom 7,590 had been made so by partaking of the poisonous cup! In this account are not included the tenants of penitentiaries, county jails, lunatic asylums, and state prisons. To this sum must be added the catalogue of those who are a heavy tax, in various ways, upon the community at large, and especially upon their friends and relatives, chiefly through idleness, occasioned by intemperance. If all these were summed together, the aggregate will be swelled to five times the number mentioned; which, if Massachusetts be taken as the standard for all the States of the Union, will give no less than 800,000 paupers from intemperance, to the United States; whose maintenance costs the industrious and sober citizens not less than Thirty Millions of Dollars.

Next, we would direct your attention to the evil effects of intemperance on the education of the rising generation. The evil example exhibited before children in thousands and ten thousands of families; the encouragements they receive to participate in the intoxicating draught; the same example witnessed by them in numbers of those who are employed as instructors of youth, together with that of their school and classmates, who, not satisfied with ruining their own health, reputation and future usefulness, in the dram-shop, employ every mean art to entice their fellow scholars into the same road of destruction; we say, these united examples are sufficient to draw the whole rising generation within the irresistible power of this all-devouring vortex.

What baneful influence intemperance exercises on legislation, will appear evident from this simple consideration—that if the happiness of families and neighbourhoods is frequently destroyed by one drunkard, connected with such families, or being in such neighbourhoods, much more baneful must be the effect on the community at large, if legislators, representatives of a district or State, indulge in intemperance. Legislators of this cast are disqualified to perform the duties which they owe to their constituents, to their country, and to posterity; and by opposing the great and glorious cause of temperance, by their example, they undermine the temple of liberty, which they are sworn to protect and defend.

Our colored population has likewise a call upon our philanthropy. We should care to their relief. The awails of their grounds and fowl-yards are now generally spent in groceries and dram-shops. Could they be taught, by our example, to husband these means of comfort, how much larger would be the share of their happiness, and how much brighter the prospect of their becoming more faithful and profitable servants. The moral and religious instructions which are given them would prove more effectual, and temperance would strengthen the bond of affection which attaches the master to his servant, and the servant to his master.

Mr. BACON has satisfactorily shown, in his sermon on temperance, that the sale of ardent spirits for drink, is a crime against the public policy of the State, against public order and comfort, against trade and industry, against property and morals, against health and life. This able defence of the cause, on which we now address you, fellow citizens, is in the hands of thousands, or may easily be procured. To it we refer you for further information, and assure you, that no friend to his country, willing to weigh impartially the train of sound reasoning contained in that document, will dismiss it without full conviction of its correctness.

These considerations, fellow citizens, ought not to be without weight with you. The temperance cause is the cause of good order and of morality; if it shall find favor with you, so that you are induced to come forward to its support, as your forefathers came to the aid of liberty and independence, you will share in the glory of your fathers; and when called from the stage of action, you will sink into the silent grave with the consolation of having secured to your children the blessings of liberty; but if you should view the cause of temperance with indifference or suspicion, you will be digging the grave of liberty, of good order, of comfort, of health, and of life. But we intreat you, once more, by all that you hold dear, to apply the only remedy against the desolating evil of intemperance, by giving support to the cause which we have embraced; and that you may come forward to our aid, in your full moral strength, we appeal again to your patriotism, your philanthropy, and to your love of virtue, and we trust we shall not appeal in vain!

Fellow Citizens! There are many ways in which you may assist this Society in the cause it has undertaken. There are temperance societies in your neighborhood. You can unite with them and contribute your influence to arrest the evil which rages around you. If there is none yet formed, you can join with the right-minded around you, and form one. You can cause that association to be represented in the State Society, according to the provisions of our constitution. You can obtain those documents which have been written with great ability on the cause of temperance, so intimately connected with our national welfare, and having satisfied your own minds respecting them, can circulate them among your neighbors and friends. If you have hitherto used ardent spirits moderately, you can cease that moderate use, nor longer sanction a corrupt and dangerous practice by your own example. If you have been im-

pllicated in the traffic in this destructive poison, you can cease this traffic, and show that you are incapable of injuring your fellow creatures from the hope of gain. You can discount the ignoble and destructive practice of treating at elections, and purchasing the votes of freemen, by first making them the slaves of strong drink.

You can rescue the drunkard from the grasp, and make him a valuable member of society. You can thus restore the heart-broken wife to the comfort and peace she promised herself when she united her fortunes with his, and can deliver his children from the curse and reproach entailed upon them by their father's name and example. You can train up your own children in detestation of the intoxicating cup, and save them from the shame, suffering, and crime it occasions. You can thus contribute to arrest that evil which is the reproach of our American Republic, and to transmit the institutions and spirit of our fathers to coming generations.

We anticipate from you a favorable decision. In so good a cause let your hearts be warm, and your deeds prompt.

APPENDIX.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

At a meeting of Delegates appointed to attend a Convention in Columbia, on the third and fourth days of July, for the purpose of forming a State Temperance Society, and who met on the evening of the third, at the lecture room of the Baptist Church, the Hon. Chancellor JOHNSON was called to the chair, and G. T. SNOWDEN appointed secretary.

After prayer by the Rev. Professor HOWE, the names of the following persons were enrolled as Delegates.

FROM LAURENS DISTRICT.

Rev. S. B. Lewers, Laurens District Temperance Society.		
John Simpson, Friendship	do.	do.
William Templeton, Bethany	do.	do.
William Blakely, Rocky Spring	do.	do.

NEWBURY.

Dr. James Eppes, Mount Tabor Temperance Society.		
Cliff S. Beard,	do.	do.
Dr. J. Kilgore, Gilder's Creek	do.	do.
Zacheus Wright,	do.	do.
Thomas W. Chalmers, Head Spring	do.	do.
Hon. Chancellor Johnson,	do.	do.

DARLINGTON.

John M. Timmons, Elin Temperance Society.		
John Courtney,	do.	do.
Rev. Sidney Dargen, Darlington	do.	do.

MARLBOROUGH.

Benj. B. Townsend, Bennettsville Temperance Society, per John Bryce, Esq.

LEXINGTON.

Rev. E. L. Hazelius, D. D. Lexington District Temperance Society.		
A. H. Fort,	do.	do.
H. Muller,	do.	do.
L. Pew,	do.	do.
G. Haltwanger, jr.	do.	do.
Colonel West Coughman,	do.	do.
D. Nunnemaker,	do.	do.
Rev. L. Bedenbaugh,	do.	do.
Thomas Shuler,	do.	do.

ABBEVILLE.

Rev. L. H. Davis, Abbeville town Temperance Society.

RICHLAND.

Rev. Professor Howe, Young Men's Temperance Society of Columbia.		
Rev. Mr. Reynolds,	do.	do.
John Bryce,	do.	do.
A. Wallace,	do.	do.
W. W. Ellis,	do.	do.
T. L. McBryde,	do.	do.
G. T. Snowden,	do.	do.

The Hon. Chancellor JOHNSON was elected President, and G. T. SNOWDEN, Secretary.

On motion of the Rev. S. B. LEWERS, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient to organize a State Temperance Society.
Resolved, That a committee consisting of one Delegate from each Society represented in this Convention, be appointed to prepare a constitution. The following persons were appointed said committee:

Rev. Mr. Lewers,	Laurens.
Rev. Dr. Hazelius,	Lexington.
Rev. Professor Howe,	Columbia.
Mr. Simpson,	Friendship.
Mr. Templeton,	Bethany.
Mr. Blakely,	Rocky Spring.
Dr. Eppes,	Mount Tabor.
Dr. Kilgore,	Gilder's Creek.
Thomas W. Chalmers,	Head Spring.
Rev. Mr. Timmons,	Elin.
Mr. Townsend, per John Bryce,	Bennettsville.
Rev. Sidney Dargen,	Darlington.
Rev. L. H. Davis,	Abbeville.

On motion,
Resolved, That the President be the chairman of this committee.
Adjourned to meet at this place at nine o'clock tomorrow.
G. T. SNOWDEN, Secretary.

At an adjourned meeting of the Convention, held at the Baptist Lecture Room, on the 4th of July, 1838.

Opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. HAZELIUS.
The minutes of the last meeting were read.
The committee appointed to prepare a Constitution to be submitted to this Convention, presented their report, which was adopted, and is as follows:
The committee appointed to prepare a Constitution for a State Temperance Society, respectfully report the following:

The promotion of the Temperance cause is intimately connected with the permanency of our free institutions, with domestic comfort, with the happiness of the human family, and with the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. It devolves, therefore, on those who would be benefactors of mankind, to aid in spreading its benign influences over their own country and the world, by the exertion of kind moral influence, and united public example.

That we may bear a humble part in this noble work, we have determined to organize a State Temperance Society, and have adopted the following

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. This Society shall be an association of such Temperance Societies as now exist, or shall hereafter be organized within this State, and shall be called The State Temperance Society of South Carolina.

ART. 2. The officers of this Society shall be a President, five Vice Pres-