

A TEMPERANCE PLEDGE.

WRITTEN BY ROBERT BOLTON, THE PURITAN, IN 1637.

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., March 9th, 1842.

DEAR SIR:—A few years ago there appeared in several papers a temperance pledge written by Robert Bolton, the Puritan, in 1637. It was accompanied by the following remarks: "I have found the following temperance pledge, written in the blank leaf of an old English book, which has been handed down from parent to child for several generations; but appears at the time, when the pledge was dated, to have been the property of good old Robert Bolton, bachelor in divinity, and preacher of God's word at Broughton, in Northamptonshire, England. It shows that temperance principles were properly appreciated by some, at least, in olden time.

A. P.

Marietta, America, July 3d, 1834.

Broughton, 1637. From this day forward to the end of my life, I will never pledge any health, nor drink a whole carouse in a glass, cup, bowl, or other drinking instrument whatsoever, wheresoever it be, or from whomsoever it come, except the necessity of nature do require it. Not my own most gracious king, nor any the greatest monarch or tyrant on earth, not my dearest friend, nor all the gold in the world, shall ever enforce me or allure me. Not an angel from Heaven (who I know will not attempt it) should persuade me. Not Satan, with all his old subtleties, nor all the powers of hell itself, shall ever betray me. By this very sin, (for a sin it is, and not a little one,) I do plainly find that I have more offended and dishonored my great and glorious Maker, and most merciful Savior, than by all other sins that I am subject unto. And for this very sin I know it is that my God hath often been strange unto me.

And for that cause, and no other respect, have I thus vowed; and I heartily beg my good Father in Heaven, of his great goodness and infinite mercy in Jesus Christ, to assist me in the same, and to be favorable unto me for what is past.

Amen.

ROBERT BOLTON.

April 10th, 1637.

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