

"My Fellow Members—You have selected me, as one of your members, to deliver the first address before you. I feel proud in thus having the honor conferred upon me; but I deeply regret that the time has been so short for me to prepare, that I will be unable to do that justice which the importance of the subject demands; but feeling it a pleasure as well as a duty to lend my small efforts to do away with an evil which has been and still is doing more to keep us poor and ignorant than all other evils put together: and which is yearly sending its thousands of votaries to a drunkard's grave. For this cause, my fellow members, do I come forward most willingly on this occasion. We have commenced a glorious work; a new era in the chapter of events has dawned upon us; we are here laying a foundation, on which will be built joy, peace, prosperity, happiness, long life, riches, honor, power, and wisdom. These associations, of which yours compose a part, have done vast amount of good; they have been the means of turning noisy neighborhoods into quiet ones; of restoring fighting and distracted families into peaceful and happy ones; they have kept the hard earnings of many a father and mother from the dram shop and tavern, and this money has been used to buy bread and clothing for themselves and children. I know of a young man who had a drunken father. This young man came in from sea once, and told his father, if he would keep sober one month, he would give him money enough to buy a new coat. The father promised he would, and he did; and before the month was out, the father joined the temperance society, and shortly

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afterwards became President of the society. Well, at the end of the month he had saved \$14 66, which would have gone to the grog shop for liquor, if it had not been for this son persuading and prevailing on him to join a temperance society. So you see, my fellow members, how much good we may all do, from the example of this young man. If all persons were to become teetotalers, we would soon have no brewers or distillers, and consequently, no grog shops or taverns. And, my fellow members, how much of the money that goes for intoxicating liquors might go for schooling; and how many more children might we see in the schools which are opened for our reception than we do, getting an education, instead of seeing them running about the streets, learning all kinds of wickedness. And what do you think will become of those boys, yea, and girls too? Why, if they continue in these bad habits, they will grow up in them, and when they become men and women, they will become poor and ignorant and lazy, and nobody will respect them. Do any of you, my fellow members, wish thus to grow up? I know you do not, and therefore you have said that you hate all kinds of drink that will make drunk come, and you have promised to continue to hate it. Then I say to you, go on in this good cause, and try to get all the boys and girls of Wilmington to come and join under our banner of Total Abstinence. And may we all continue to keep to our pledge: "*That we will touch not, taste not, nor handle not any kind of liquor, as a drink, that will make drunk come;*"

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September 25, 1841  
Cooper, Frisby  
*Colored American*

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