

Finally, the gathering dispersed at 1.30 a.m., after remaining together ten hours and a half. The lashings were cast adrift, the ten vessels hauled clear of one another, and when at last the sounds of public worship ceased, there were still silent thanksgivings in many hearts; for three skippers and a cabin-boy had not only become pledged abstainers, but had openly confessed the Saviour.

By that day's event the *coper* had lost three of its customers; nay, more than three, for when the skipper of a smack refuses drink, he refuses it for himself and his crew.

By the autumn of 1884 matters were rapidly reaching a crisis. The foreigners were growing desperate, and one of them, an Ostend skipper, openly declared: "These cursed Mission-ships are ruining our trade, and if many more of them come, there'll soon be no *copers*!"

This was cheering news indeed; and while such tidings reached me from sea, the testimony on shore was equally gatisfying. The Mayor of Grimsby remarked at a public meeting: "I regard the Mission-vessel in the Grimsby fleet as a blessing to the trade of the port." Similar pleasing statements were made in other towns by magistrates, clergy, and police; and many private residents of the fishing towns added their voluntary endorsement of the official verdict

AT CHRISTMAS-TIME.

BY HELEN M. WINSLOW.

At Christmas-time last year

So many friends that now are gone were here,
 So many hopes were glowing then unspoken,
 So many faiths were strong that now lie broken,
 And loving hearts that trusted without fear,
 —At Christmas-time last year.

At Christmas-time this year

So many of us find this world a drear
 And barren desert wherein blooms no rose,
 With mountain peaks surrounding it, whose snows
 Have chilled our hearts, and turned life's foliage sere,
 —At Christmas-time this year.

At Christmas-time next year,

Who knows what changing fortunes may be near?
 Take courage, then! For night shall turn to day,
 From brightening skies the clouds must roll away,
 And faith and hope and love shall all be here,
 —At Christmas-time next year.