

no doubt that they would have many an "Eagle Eye" in their ranks; but whether the cause of Temperance would receive any benefit by such a mode of procedure, is a question which would not be very hard to determine. Imagine, a man speaking publicly against drinking rum, and then going home to privately drink wine or brandy!

Now, Mr. Editor, in reference to the boys who have "all work and no play," of whom "Eagle Eye," speaks. The Temperance men have done all in their power for them. They have a Division Room and a Reading Room, the latter open every night in the week; though the Reading Room does not contain as much "reading matter" as it might, yet there is as much as can be afforded, for the men who have the management of affairs are, to a great extent, working-men, who cannot afford to be very lavish in their expenditure; but who, nevertheless, have done a good deal towards making the Room as good as it is. There is also a gymnasium at the North end of the city, to which all "Sons" can belong on the payment of a very small fee—but the example of "moderate drinkers" prevent them from joining the Divisions, and partaking of the privileges offered. Am I tolerant enough?

"Eagle Eye" in one breath says that nothing should be said to the man who wishes to take a glass when he likes, and in the next says that parents should be "sensible" at for not making an endeavour to procure enjoyment for their children. Has he any sons? How would he like a person to go to him some evening when he is quietly sipping his "Sherry" at home and say, "Sir, unless you provide a circle of ground for your son, and encourage him to become a volunteer he will die a drunkard?" Probably not a word, but would rather roughly "pour" his friend out of the window, or down the steps!

If your correspondent cannot benefit the cause, by coming in, let him not try to injure it while staying out, by writing against it. I hope he is not one of those who do not like Temperance at all, but who are afraid to say so, and take the "tolerance question" as a means of having a fling at the "Sons." There are now two distinct Temperance organizations in this city—the old-established "Sons," and the newly-formed "Good Templars." If any one wants to aid in the good work, and has an aversion to the former, let him try the latter; and if he does not like the "Templars," then let him become a "Son." I am both, and would willingly join twenty more societies if they were in existence, if I thought it would be a benefit to the cause. I have no doubt your correspondent may be anxious to do something for the suppression of the monster vice, Intemperance. He can do that best by becoming a "Total Abstainer." Come in friend "Eagle Eye," and we will extend to you "A brother's hand, and a brother's welcome."

Hoping, Mr. Editor, that I have not encroached too much upon your valuable space,

I remain, yours respectfully,

MIC-MAC, No. 8.

*Hullfax, January 9th, 1865.*

### Extracts.

#### THE SINKING OF THE FLORIDA.

By the merest accident in the world, a vessel which had been the terror of Federal merchants and shipowners was run down as she was lying quietly off Norfolk, in the James River, and afterwards sunk from the effects of the collision. Her name was the Florida, and our readers can scarcely have forgotten that a casual misapprehension on the part of a Federal captain, who mistook the neutral harbour of Bahia for the high seas, was the cause of her presence in Federal waters. Of course she would have been restored, crew and all, to the Brazilian Government, had this "fortuitous concurrence" not taken place; but, as ill-luck would have it, while she was coaling previous to being taken up the river to Newport News, down came the transport steamer Alliance, under heavy pressure of steam, and caught her just on the bow. No time was lost in setting the pumps to work, but the same fatality pursued this doomed vessel, and the water steadily gained. Desperate efforts were made to save her by rigging out new pumps and baling vigorously, and a very strict watch was kept by day and night, as it was supposed that measures might be taken by the "rebels to attempt her destruction from the shore." But, alas! it was but labour lost. One night, at half-past 12 o'clock, the acting master, Mr. BAKER, retired to bed, after satisfying himself that there was no immediate danger of going down; but when at half-past 12, he was woken up by a report from the engineer

that "he could not keep the vessel clear." According to the *New York World*, "it is not definitely known what caused the water suddenly to pour into the Florida in so much greater volume after midnight," but the engineer fancied "that something had happened to the sea-cocks of the engines," and others conjectured that "some portion of the bottom planks" had given way." Both of these suggestions seem probable, but all that is known for certain is that the untoward circumstance was entirely due to chance, of which we cannot have a better proof than the alacrity with which Captain Woodward, of the Ram Atlanta, came on board "to see what could be done to keep her afloat." This officer never fell a victim to his devotion on behalf of the Florida, for he stood by her to the last, and had not Admiral Porter, by some providential inspiration, bethought himself of despatching a tug steamer to the scene of action in the nick of time, Captain Woodward and the prize crew would doubtless have gone to the bottom. As it was, this crowning misfortune was averted, and no sooner was every one well out of her than the Florida careened over, and disappeared stem-foremost."

The only consideration which qualifies the purely casual nature of this occurrence is the fact that it had been frequently predicted. Whether it were because men are prone to forebode what they most dread, or whether in some mysterious sense the coming event cast its shadow before, it so happened that a very general impression prevailed at New York that the Florida would meet such a fate as we have described. There was a certain miser-spaney, indeed, between the prophecies, for whereas some predicted that she would founder as she did, others were of opinion that she would perish by fire. Destiny willed that the former lot should be hers, and also that the fatal blow which stove in her side should be inflicted by a Government vessel. As to the effect produced by the news on the Northern people, the accounts are rather conflicting. The informant of the *New York World*, after premising, rather superfluously, that "the cause of her sinking is considered undoubtedly to be the collision with the transport steamer," expresses a conviction that "the Government will call upon the owner of that vessel for damages." He proceeds, as if by an undesigned coincidence, to present another American view of the matter:—"There is a feeling of satisfaction among naval officers here at the fate of the Florida. It is considered much preferable to have her disposed of here, and that indemnity be offered to the Brazilian Government, than suffer the humiliation of taking her back and seeing her saluted as she enters the harbour of Rio Janeiro in triumph with the rebel flag flying. This would have been a most bitter pill to the American officers who would have to accompany her." This is very frank, and gives significance to the statement which reaches us from another quarter, that "it is possible the Government had no complicity in the transaction." A third authority, writing for the information of one of our contemporaries, explains why it is impossible to entertain the idea of any such complicity:—"Every one can see that the enemies of the North will labour sedulously to create the impression abroad that it is all a 'Yankee trick.' However, their malice will be signally frustrated, for 'Admiral Porter has ordered a full investigation of the affair, and if it shall be proved to have been a deliberate act the perpetrators will doubtless be punished as they deserve.' Now, let us assume for a moment that the disappearance of the notorious Florida was the result, not of accident, but of design; in fact, that it was the fulfilment of a little plot arranged by Mr. Barnum or some other master of patriotic smartness. Upon this supposition what ought to be our feelings about it? Perhaps it betrays a want of sensitiveness in the conscience, but the truth is that we are not disposed to waste much indignation upon the subject. Granted that it was a Yankee trick of no very legitimate kind to make specific performance of an international duty impossible by destroying the property in dispute, what are we to say of the proceedings to which the Florida owed her existence? If her capture was a lawless violation of neutrality, what was her equipment; if underhand means were employed to get rid of her, what sort of means were employed to procure her? Far be it from us to justify or palliate one immoral act by another; but the question here turns, not on the morality of those who contrived the 'accident,' but on the claim of those who suffered by it to our sympathy.

"Quis tulerit Græchos de solitione querentes?"

Those who sacrifice means to ends in the prosecution of their own objects cannot be pitied when the tables are turned on them by equally unscrupulous opponents. The party whose rights have really been outraged on our present supposition is the Brazilian Government, and from this point of view the original seizure of the Florida was a more lawless act than her "accidental" submersion. What apology or atonement Mr. Seward will think it consistent with his dignity to make remains to be proved, but we venture to anticipate that it will be ample and even profuse. It costs nothing to confess a fault—on the contrary, there is a sort of luxury in doing so—when the blame of it can be thrown on a subordinate, and the only reparation that would be disagreeable to make has ceased to be possible. American pride will not be offended by volunteering the assurance that but for this mishap the Florida would have